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# Ann Arbor Observer

December 2011

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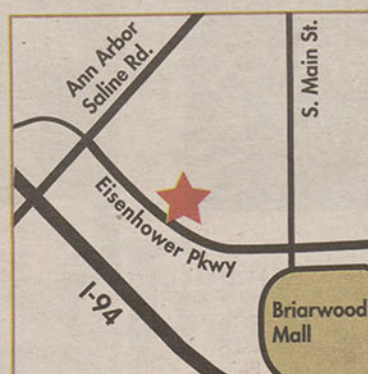
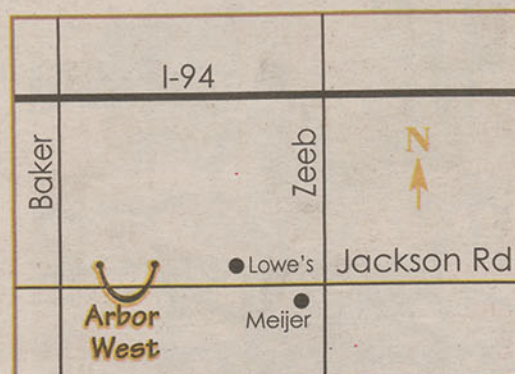
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The Ann Arbor Observer (ISSN #0192-5717) is published thirteen times a year, once each month plus a special issue in August (the City Guide), by the Ann Arbor Observer Company, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. Telephone: (734) 769-3175. USPS #454-470. Member Certified Audit of Circulations, Inc. Periodicals postage paid at Ann Arbor, MI.

**Subscriptions:** \$20 for one year, \$35 for two years. Write to the Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. Telephone (734) 769-3175. Fax (734) 769-3375. Email: subscribe@aaobserver.com

**Manuscripts:** The Observer welcomes freelance material. Send manuscripts to Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-1484. Email: editor@arborweb.com

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**Snyder's gift?** In their radical re-invention of Michigan, governor Rick Snyder and the Republican-controlled legislature have passed plenty of laws that have riled local governments, including expanding the power of emergency managers to take over failing cities. But you'd think that the new law making public employees pay at least 20 percent of the cost of their benefits and pensions would be a hit with local leaders, since it pre-empted a lot of the problems they've complained about in past union negotiations and arbitrations.

Not in Ann Arbor, says mayor John Hieftje. "It didn't really preempt the problems since it affects only people [working for the city] who don't have a contract. It may have attracted new urgency for people to sign a contract. But even there, I'm not sure how much it helped with the police, because we also had a helpful arbitrator who acted as a mediator."

Hieftje concedes "it's a good law for taxpayers. It'll save [the city] a million dollars a year in health care costs. And because it's reduced the amount we have to pay for benefits, we can have more police and firefighters." Between the new contracts and impending retirements, the mayor hopes the city will be able to hire eight to twelve new cops next year.

But that's all the mayor will concede. Asked if any other recent Lansing legislation has helped local governments, Hieftje replies with an emphatic "No! They've done lots of stuff, most of it harmful. Take the emergency manager law: I'm not sure that's even constitutional."

So what would Hieftje like to see from Lansing? "Full payment of the costs for fire protection for the university," he replies. "They never pay up to the degree of the contract. We're talking millions of dollars."

**Use it or lose it:** "We absolutely are getting the word out!" says Mary Schlitt of Food Gatherers. The message

Schlitt and other nonprofits are spreading is, "Give while the giving is still good." As part of Governor Snyder's tax-shift package, Dec. 31 is the last date Michigan residents can claim a state tax credit for gifts to food banks like Food Gatherers—along with homeless shelters, community foundations, and public universities, museums, and libraries.



The 50 percent credit can save a single taxpayer \$100, a couple \$200, and estates, trusts, and businesses \$5,000. Losing the credit "has the potential to greatly impact donations," says Nicole Adelman, director of the Alpha House family shelter. "That's actually true of all the shelters in the county."

Losing the credit will be "a blow to us," says Ozone House director Katie Doyle. Most gifts to the teen shelter and support agency are \$400 or less, and Doyle expects the tax change will affect those donors "big time." She's sending out a mailing to 2,000 supporters encouraging them to give before year-end. Food Gatherers has sent out a 10,000-piece mailing, along with 3,000 emails to their biggest donors. At 107one radio's "Rockin' for the Hungry" food drive and fundraiser (December 7-11 at the Maple Road Kroger), the slogan will be, "use it or lose it."

**Good cause gowns:** Bargain hunting brides-to-be might check out the Brides Project Wedding Boutique, a cause disguised as a store around the corner from Downtown Home & Garden on Liberty. Opened in September, the by-appointment-only shop is run by volunteers to help cancer patients and their families: the gowns are donated, and all pro-

ceeds go to the Cancer Support Community of Greater Ann Arbor.

Project founder Monique Sluymers, whose father has advanced lung cancer, was inspired by a TV show about a similar shop in Ontario. So far, they've sold seven "pre-loved" dresses for a total of \$1,500—more than they anticipated for the first month, says volunteer Barb Hiltz. Prices run from \$300 to \$1,250; more expensive gowns will be sold at auction on weddingbee.com or, in the future, on the Project's own website, thebridesproject.org.

So far, about 180 dresses have been donated—including some from women who sent personal letters thanking the prospective buyer, and sharing their own struggles with cancer.

## Where's Andrew?

Early in November, "Andrew Waston" emailed the Observer with a story idea. He said he was part of a babysitting pool of stay-at-home dads, whose members were saving "tons of money" using online coupons.

When we called and asked what side of town he lived on, "Waston" fell silent. "Ann Arbor Hills? Burns Park? The Old West Side?" we prompted. "The Old West Side," he answered—but then he had difficulty remembering what his wife did for a living.

Growing wary, we googled. His name didn't show up in the Ann Arbor white pages, and the phone number he called from was a landline in Illinois. Then we searched for "Andrew Waston coupons," and sure enough, there he was ... couponing with his buddies again, only this time in Hilton Head, South Carolina.

Waston told the *Island Packet* just what he told the Ob-

server—that he and his stay-at-home buddies were saving a ton of money using those online coupons. As an added touch, Waston told the *Packet* that his last online purchase was a golf club—in Ann Arbor, "Waston" told us, he and the guys played hockey. "I don't think a lot of people do this," Waston told the *Packet* reporter—presumably referring to couponing, not to scamming reporters.

**Space available:** At the end of October, a "Space Available" sign went up in the front window of the U-M WORK Gallery on State. Rumors spread that the gallery was closing, and "one woman came in and actually started measuring" the space, says art and design prof Osman Khan. The woman was disappointed—"Space Available" was an exhibit organized by Khan's A&D graduate students.

"One of the questions we are asking in our seminar is, 'What is art in the twenty-first century?'" Khan explains. "Should we still be making paintings all the time?" In fact, virtually no art hung on any of the walls, and the culmination of the three-week exhibition may be a book. One evening the students showed the same movie (for free) that was playing at the State Theater across the street.

Khan admits they skirted ethical boundaries by showing the movie (student Kayla Romberger says the director knew, gave them a nod, and told them not to do it again). Like the sign, it was evidently intended as a commentary on art and business. "They're in it for a commercial reason," says Khan, referring to both the theater and to the brokers who put up real "Space Available" signs. "We don't have to pay rent ... so we have certain freedoms."

The artists don't pay rent, of course, because philanthropist Penny Stamps does. So what did Stamps make of the exhibit? Khan says she didn't take part in any of the activities, but when he told her about it, she smiled.



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# Inside Ann Arbor

## People or Animals?

*Cost-cutting hits the humane society.*

**H**ard times make for hard choices. When jobs are lost and family income drops, it can force parents to choose between feeding their kids or their pets. And when property tax income drops and state revenue sharing all but disappears, that can force Washtenaw County to choose between supporting human services or the Humane Society of Huron Valley (HSHV).

It's with this backdrop that county commissioners voted in November to eliminate their \$500,000 annual payment to HSHV. The next two-year budget transfers half that amount—\$250,000—to “animal control”—which may or may not be done by the humane society.

“We don’t want to do it, but you have to look at the big picture,” says Rob Turner (R-Chelsea). “We’re having to cut \$17 million out of a \$100 million budget.” The budget cut payments to outside groups in half, including those providing human services (see “Retiring Champions,” p. 33). “Even the Delonis Center got cut 75 percent,” says Turner, “and that’s one of the most necessary human services organizations in the county.”

“All of us would love to hold harmless all these organizations,” continues Turner, “but we can’t do that. We’re cutting everybody, and if we’re going to give someone additional funding, it’s got to come from somebody else. We all care for animals, but we have to balance the needs of human society and the needs of animals.”

That’s not the way Tanya Hilgendorf, the humane society’s executive director, sees it. “We’re not talking about discretionary money that comes out of the general fund but money for a statutory obligation. Animal control is a mandatory service for the county, not a gift to a nonprofit. If we didn’t do it, the county still would have to do it. And it would cost them a heck of a lot more than half a million dollars a year.”



MARK BIALEK

“If we didn’t do it [animal control], the county would still have to do it,” argues HSHV executive director Tanya Hilgendorf. “And it would cost them a heck of a lot more than half a million dollars a year.”

The humane society has had a contract to provide animal control for the county since 1944, “and every year there’s been a conflict,” says Hilgendorf. After she became director in 2005, Hilgendorf led the fight to build the society’s new \$8.6 million shelter. The county put in \$1 million and let HSHV sell \$6.5 million in bonds backed by its credit.

“The deal was we got \$1 million to help build the new shelter and we’d get half a million dollars a year for animal control,” explains Hilgendorf. “And we didn’t actually get the half million until last year. But animal control costs more than that anyway, and my donors are underwriting the county’s obligation. This is something my 850 volunteers and 12,000 donors understand better than the county.”

Hilgendorf categorically rejects the argument that it’s a choice between people and animals: “We’re not living

in Somalia. We’re living in Washtenaw County. We don’t have to choose, and we can have both.”

No, we can’t, says Barbara Bergman (D-Ann Arbor)—or at least not at the level we used to. “Given a choice between saving dogs or putting food on the tables of families that need food, I’m on the side of people. Their mission and our mandate are different, and we simply can no longer afford half a million dollars a year.”

*Bergman agrees that the county and the humane society had a deal for the new shelter, “but that’s a deal, not a contract. Right now, we have a contract [with HSHV] until December 31 at 11:59 p.m. After that, who knows?”*

## “We All Were Jackasses.”

*Ypsilanti Township and the county end their epic lawsuit.*

**D**epending on your perspective, the war between Washtenaw County and Ypsilanti Township over the price of police services lasted either five or eight years.

It’s five if you believe, as county officials do, that the conflict began when the township sued the county in 2006 over steeply rising prices for its contract with the county sheriff. But township leaders believe it started when the county adopted a methodology in 2003 that could have led to even higher prices.



MARK BIALEK

When Ypsi Township sued to lower its policing fees, the county sued back, contending the fees should be even higher. The county won a \$733,000 settlement—but township attorney Doug Winters and police services administrator Doug Radzik say they still came out ahead.

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## Inside Ann Arbor

our interests and we realized what we both wanted was for it to go away."

Smith says making it go away "came down to how many dollars and how do we save face so we don't look like jackasses. And we all were jackasses. It should never have gone this far. But the two sides both felt they were right, and there was emotional exacerbation on both sides."

"In the end, Ypsilanti Township essentially lost," says Ann Arbor commissioner Barbara Bergman.

Who won? Bergman doesn't hesitate. "Doug Winters."

Ypsilanti Township's attorney says it ain't so—though his firm, McLain & Winters, did bill the township \$351,154 for its work on the case. That's a lot more than attorney Matta Blair got—\$25,135, much of it for photocopies and driving—but also a lot less than the firm of Garan Lucow Miller got for handling much of the litigation—\$759,317. Altogether, the township spent more than \$1.1 million in legal fees. Add in the settlement, and that's about \$36 for each of the more than 53,000 township residents.

Winters and Mike Radzik, the township's police services administrator, say the township still came out ahead. "We didn't prevail in court, but a lot of good came out of the lawsuit—and not just for Ypsilanti Township but for all twelve jurisdictions served by the sheriff's department," says Radzik. "We spent money to get there, but the money we saved now and into the future far exceeds it."

That's because in court "the county had to produce real numbers to back their [cost] claims," says Winters. "Look at what we're paying today versus what we would have paid had the county gotten its way. The difference is over \$10 million." If not for the litigation, he figures, the county would have more than doubled the township's cost per deputy, from \$105,863 per year in 2008 to \$240,880 in 2009.

"I can't imagine what he's talking

about," responds Leah Gunn. "It sounds like he's saying that price increase to cover the full costs would have happened, and it never happened and it never would have happened." The \$240,880 figure was calculated back in 2003 by including both direct policing costs and a share of the county's overhead. But that's not what the county billed the governments that didn't sue. They paid a base price per deputy of \$141,963 in 2009, and \$144,803 in 2010.

Thankfully, all the arguing about the county's charge for policing and whether that reflects the true cost is in the past now. During two years of meetings with representatives from the county, townships, and sheriff's department, the county agreed to eat its overhead. By moving some other numbers around, the group came up with an annual cost per sheriff's deputy they could all agree on—\$186,108—and a base price the townships were willing to pay: \$150,595 in 2012, rising gradually to \$155,157 by 2015. Overtime will add roughly another \$10,000 a year.

In what Winters calls a "punitive" move, the county responded to Ypsilanti Township's suit by contending that it should pay *more* than the other townships—about 45 percent more. The mediator didn't buy that number, but agreed that the county had a case. "Because they didn't have a contract," Gunn says, "they didn't get the special contract price."

"We're relatively satisfied with the formula and confident the cost analysis was accurate and complete," says Radzik. "There is universal agreement on costs, and prices have stabilized into the near future."

Ypsilanti Township has reduced its contracted police force by thirteen deputies in the last four years, and is now down to thirty-one officers. But "we're adding four police officers next year because the voters passed an additional public safety millage," says Radzik.

The new four-year contract leaves county taxpayers subsidizing the Ypsilanti Township police force by more than \$1 million a year. "I don't have the votes to change it," sighs Gunn. "I am disgusted."

Tim Athan

Life in Ann Arbor

Will this replace the water treatment plant?

Looking forward to doing the rapids!

Silas and I plan a go-see to learn about this irrigation system.

Yay!

My kids are so excited about the expensive water park!

### Misconceptions about the City Hall Water Sculpture.





MARK BIALEK

Beilein as Frankenstein: the U-M's head coach achieved wonders last year—and now faces new challenges.

## Reanimated

*Is it time to expect more from the U-M men's basketball team?*

Last year the Observer predicted that the U-M was headed for another losing season—we even wrote that coach John Beilein was attempting to “reanimate a zombie.” But since the point of sports is hope, the article also ventured the bromide that maybe, just maybe, there was a chance that *chemistry* would overcome the Wolverines’ lack of experience and talent.

No one believed it. The Michigan men had finished the 2009–2010 season at 15–17, staggering to the finish with stars Manny Harris and DeShawn Sims. Then Sims graduated and Harris left for the NBA, leaving the U-M with just ten scholarship players (thirteen are allowed), six of them freshmen. Only three had even the slightest college experience.

The Wolverines lost six of their first seven Big Ten games. But by January, the scores were getting close. First, Michigan took number-three Kansas to overtime. Three days later they took number-two Ohio State to the wire. At the end of the month, U-M beat nemesis MSU—at MSU. They won seven of their last ten Big Ten contests, and all three losses were nail-biters. In the Big Ten tournament, Michigan handled Illinois, then lost in the semifinals to OSU, but this time the Buckeyes were only ever so slightly better than Beilein’s squad.

By the time the dust cleared, Michigan had won twenty-one games and was in the NCAA tournament. The Wolverines creamed a talented Tennessee team 75–45, then lost against number-one



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## Inside Ann Arbor

seed Duke (73-71) when point guard Darius Morris (DiMo) threw a last-second teardrop that rolled off the rim. Just a tear. Still. Better living through (team) chemistry.

So is it safe, finally, to raise expectations for this year? It would have been if DiMo had not opted for the NBA. The point guard is the most important player on the floor. He's the guy who makes the offense go; without good point play, most teams will be relegated to also-rans.

Michigan has freshmen who might fill the void, but all first-year players endure growing pains (see DiMo's first year); counting on a freshman early transcends hope. The good news is that senior Stu Douglass can play some point. But for Michigan to approach last year's record, they need one of the frosh to learn fast. Trey Burke, a true point guard in high school, seems the most likely candidate. The good news is that both Burke and Douglas are better outside shooters than DiMo. The bad news is everything else. Michigan won't have a point guard playing at DiMo's level this season.

The team can improve elsewhere. Backup center Jon Horford has gained thirty pounds of good weight and, at six-

feet-nine and 250 pounds, can help starter Jordan Morgan. Forward Evan Smotrcyz also bulked up, and his improvement during last year should continue. Blossoming sophomore Tim Hardaway should be more complete, notably in his dribble and left hand. Stu and Zack Novak are senior mainstays. With Burke, freshman Carlton Brundidge (a combo guard who can score), and Max Bielfeldt (a big guy, six-foot-eight and 240, with some shooting skills), Michigan has more depth than last year or any time during Beilein's tenure. Talented swing player Matt Vogrich, a tough guy masquerading as a choirboy, may have to scramble for minutes.

Douglass and Novak will remain unifying presences as leaders. It is impossible to overstate what this means to any team. Zack Novak is a future Michigan icon—in thirty years older fans will recall him with something like, "You think *this* kid is tough, you should have seen Zack Novak ..."

Even with the unsettling question of point-guard play this year and the chore of keeping a deeper team unified, the future appears bright. Beilein's recruiting for 2013 and 2014 is going better than well. He and his staff have taken a program with a death rattle and turned it into one on the verge of competing for an NCAA berth every year.

## calls & letters

### Fire & Pain

Fire Chief Chuck Hubbard emailed several corrections and clarifications to our story about his department ("Fire and Pain," November). We misquoted him as using the term "Category One response" to describe the AAFD's former practice of carrying tennis rackets on trucks to kill bats—that term is only used for medical runs. His firefighters are EMTs, not paramedics, and EMU student Rehden Lemasters didn't die in the house fire at 928 South State; he died later in the hospital.

We also misunderstood Hubbard's response to the anonymous firefighter who believed that Lemasters might have lived had the city not closed Station 2 on Stadium Blvd. "If a truck was sitting outside that house, it *would* have stopped the fire," Hubbard explained—but even that impossibly swift response, he believes, could not have saved Lemasters' life.

Hubbard clarified that while fires are less frequent today, fighting a fire in a

modern home can actually be more dangerous—the gusset plates used in place of nails are more likely to fail, increasing the risk of collapse. And he stressed that he supports a countywide fire authority, *not* a countywide public safety department combining police and fire services. As Hubbard notes, "There is a huge difference between the two!!"

### \$6 million sidewalks

In a sidebar to our November election story, editor John Hilton miscalculated how much local residents have spent to repair sidewalks since the city stepped up inspections in 2005. First Ward council member Sabra Briere emailed to point out that our figure—"more than half a million dollars"—was barely in the ballpark. Using the figures we quoted from Project Management Unit head Homayoon Pirooz, Briere calculated, correctly, that "47,000 x \$130 = \$6 million."

## question corner

**Q.** Are there any plans to put sound barriers in neighborhoods that are close to the highways? I live in Foxfire subdivision, which is north of Dhu Varren near US-23 and M-14. The developer put up a massive berm in the west section. In my opinion, that did little to stop the noise there and seemed to make the noise worse in our area just east of it.

**A.** Don't look for relief any time soon—tight budgets mean that the Michigan Department of Transportation can tackle only the most critical projects. Its five-year plan for Washtenaw and surrounding counties includes just one sound barrier, on M-59 in Howell.

Got a question? Email [question@aaobserver.com](mailto:question@aaobserver.com).



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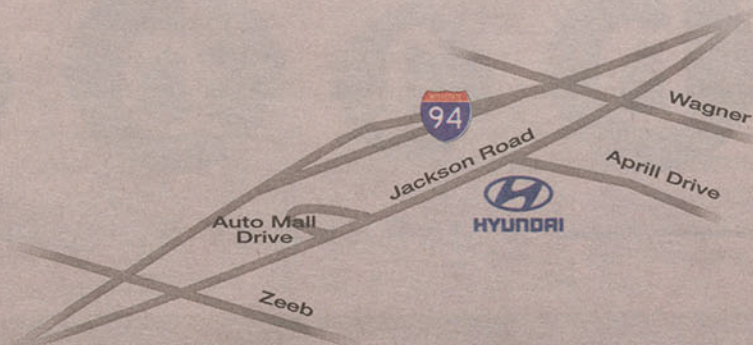
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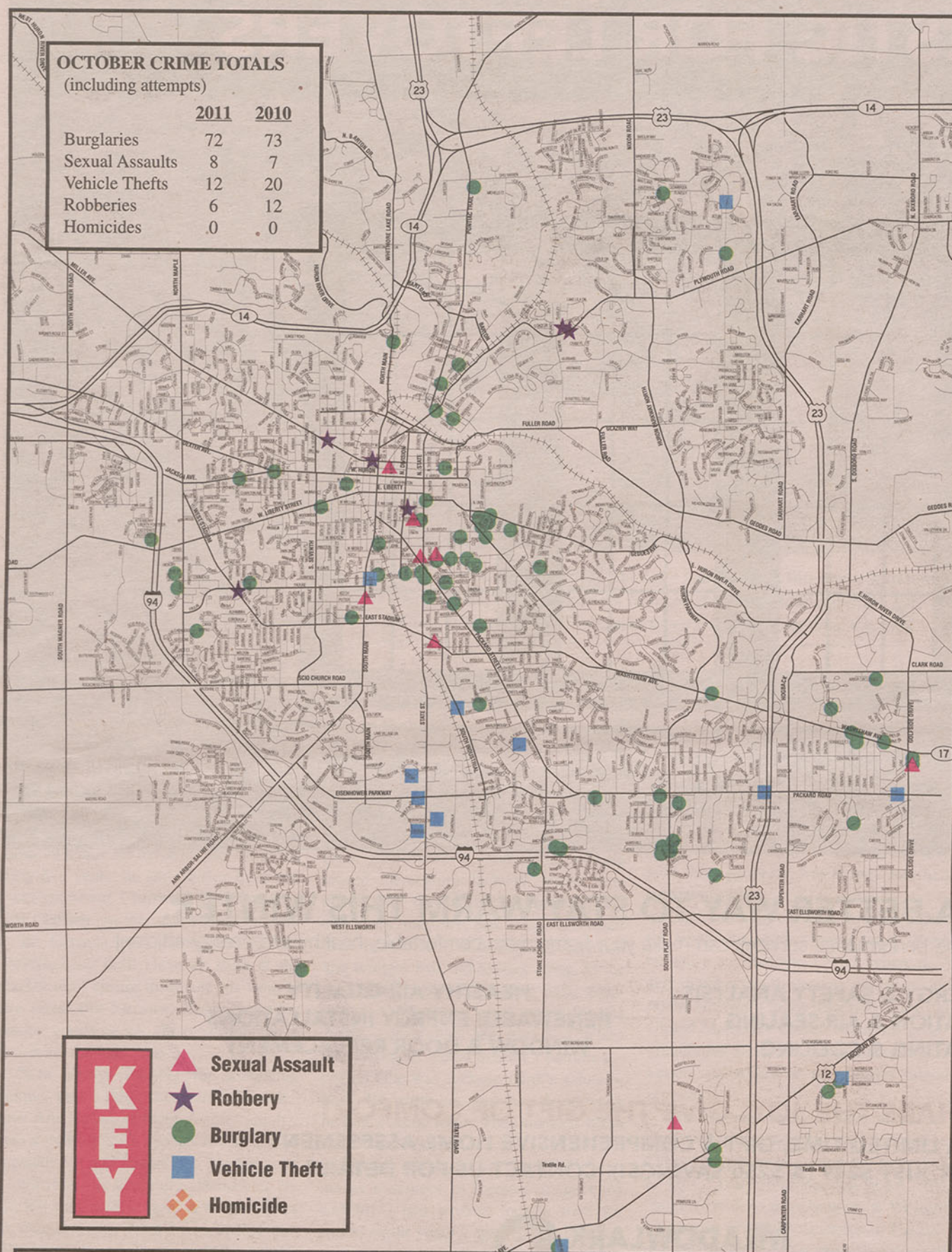
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# CrimeMap



These are the major crimes and attempted crimes at Ann Arbor addresses reported by the Ann Arbor Police Department and the public safety departments of the U-M and Pittsfield Township in **October 2011**. Placement is approximate.

The Ann Arbor and Pittsfield departments are transitioning to a centralized record-keeping system run by [crimemapping.com](http://crimemapping.com). They were unable to distinguish crimes from attempts, or sexual assaults by acquaintances from assaults by strangers, in time for the Observer's deadline.

If you need police help in an emergency, call **911**. If you have information about a crime, call your police department's **anonymous 24-hour tip line**: 996-3199 in Ann Arbor, (800) 863-1355 on campus, or 944-1238 in Pittsfield. If you have questions about a crime shown here, call Ann Arbor Neighborhood Watch (994-8775, Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.), the U-M Department of Public Safety (763-1131), or the Pittsfield Department of Public Safety (944-4911).

The box at the top of the map compares the number of crimes reported in October 2011 and October 2010.

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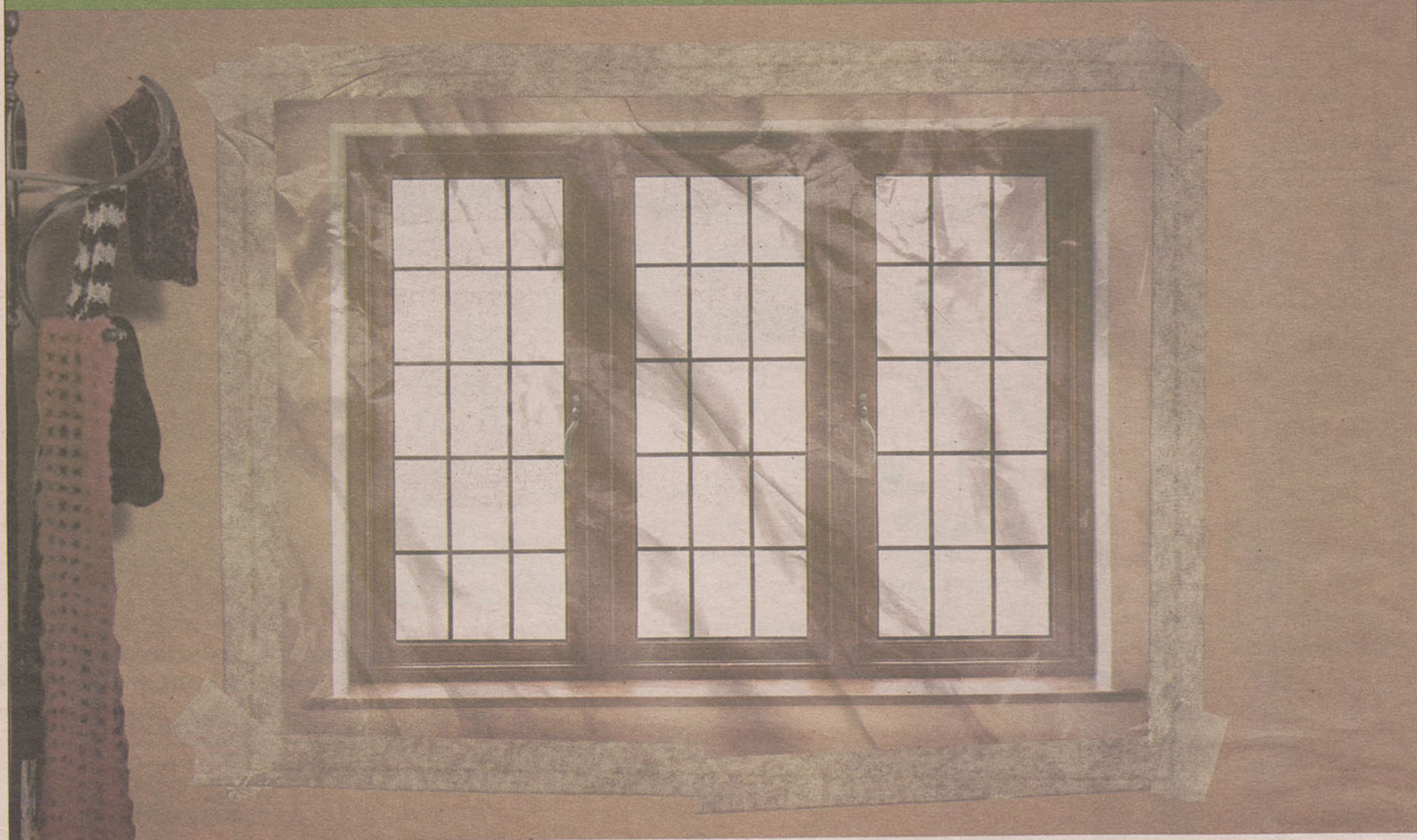
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# Ann Arborites

## Bill Hoppe

### Farmer and forester

It's a cold, clear November morning at the Ann Arbor Farmers Market, and vendor Bill Hoppe watches from his booth as bundled-up shoppers mill about the long aisles, occasionally eyeing the unusual homemade crafts he sells. As he has for the past twenty-five years, Hoppe (pronounced like *hoppy*) arrived in the pre-dawn darkness to set up "a little bit of everything." Among the items for sale this Saturday are intricate wheat weavings made from grain grown in his garden, baby hats knitted to look like vegetables, dishcloths embroidered in Swedish cross-stitch designs, and German *Lebkuchen* cookies. Hoppe's wife, Shirley, makes most of the items, but she doesn't come to the market. "I leave the selling to him," she says. "He loves the people."

Hoppe, seventy-three, waves to a young man who walks by and recalls, "I remember when he was just a little boy. He used to be fascinated with my whiskeys!" He laughs. With his light blue eyes, bushy white beard and eyebrows, and a mop of white hair beneath his olive green fedora, Hoppe has more than a passing resemblance to Santa Claus. That comes in handy for his other job: for about thirty-five years, he and Shirley have run a cut-your-own Christmas tree business near Chelsea, on the farm settled in 1866 by his German great-grandfather. Before Thanksgiving he'll close up shop at the market until spring to devote his time to tree sales. But for now, Hoppe's got his market goods to sell, the most popular of which are the baby hats.

"I'm always looking for something unique, and I think these are adorable," says Ann Arbor resident Jeanie Schultz, who's picking up a special order, a pink cupcake hat and cactus hat, for her twin grandbabies in Colorado. Hand-knit by Shirley, they're \$20 each. A woman takes an Osage orange from a big bucket and asks what she could do with the lumpy green native fruit that Hoppe gathers and sells for 50¢ apiece. "They repel spiders and mice—but I make no guarantees," he grins. The fruit's aromatic and decorative, he explains, "but you wouldn't want to eat it." The woman buys a half dozen, and he records the transaction in his pocket-sized notebook.

Another woman browses the hearts, crosses, rings, and other symbols Shirley weaves from wheat straw. Called "corn dollies" in Great Britain, they're an ancient craft rooted in pre-Christian Europe. "We farmers have many ways of thanking the grain goddesses for our harvest, and this is mine," Hoppe tells the browser,



For most of the year, Hoppe sells his wife Shirley's handicrafts, like these knitted baby hats and "corn dollies," at the Farmers Market. Around Thanksgiving, he switches to selling cut-your-own Christmas trees on their farm near Chelsea.

who—after being assured they are not made in China—buys two.

Bill and Shirley call their business "Spruce Cottage" after the blue cottage-like home they built six years ago within a forest of trees planted by five generations of Hoppes on Bill's great-grandfather's land. (The couple moved there from Jackson, where they raised their two children.) Married fifty-one years, they first met at age ten when their fathers took a fishing trip together and brought Bill and Shirley along. In the mid-1950s, when Bill was in basic training in California—"quiet years for the Army"—his mother sent him the Chelsea newspaper, in which Shirley's picture appeared (she was Jackson High's salutatorian). He wrote her, and they dated when he had a home leave. They married when he left the service.

Hoppe got both his bachelor's and master's degrees in forestry at the U-M and MSU and worked for the state for twenty-eight years—"giving good advice to the private landowner" on managing woodlands. When budget cuts threatened his job, he took early retirement. Now he manages his own land. That includes selling up to 150 Christmas trees a year.

"I'm a lumper, not a splitter," he says—charging by the tree, not by the foot. His price is twenty-five dollars per tree, and he hasn't increased it in at least five years. "Things are bad enough without raising prices on Christmas trees."

His two black cats follow him as he walks the mowed path through his land. This, he gestures, is "Hidden Valley," where he plants a new batch of white and blue spruce each year. (It takes about ten years to grow a Christmas tree.) In the

next field, he points to his boyhood home, since sold, a circa 1837 farmhouse. At the time, his family still grew wheat and raised cows, pigs, and chickens.

The youngest of three brothers, he was the only one who felt the pull of the land. In the early 1960s, his mother divided up the 140-acre farm among the three of them. His brothers eventually sold their property, but Hoppe retained a portion of his.

Cars whiz by on I-94, which borders the north end of his twenty acres. When he was a boy this was US-12, where he'd sell strawberries to passing motorists. He points westward in the direction of the old United Methodist church where his great-grandfather and other family members are buried and where he and Shirley attend services.

The Hoppes' children have settled far away, which he accepts philosophically. "They had places to go and things to do," he says. "You don't tie people down." His daughter is dean of optometry at Western University of Health Sciences in California, and his son teaches creative writing at Austin Community College in Texas. Bill smiles when he talks about his kids' return visits to the farm and points out a dried-up berry bush. "I remember when my grandson picked these raspberries and sold them for some crazy price when he came with me to the market."

But he seems to look forward more than he looks back—talking about his next ideas for the business: he's planted blackberry bushes and hazelnut and Chinese chestnut trees. "Maybe they'll be ready to sell at the market in the next few years," he says, as he stands beneath his family's towering white pines.

—Shelley Daily

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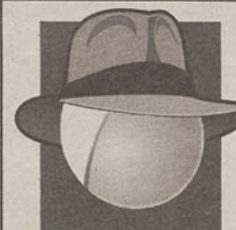
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## LANTERN PARADE

Friday, December 2nd,  
6:30pm until 7:30pm;  
Lantern pick-up 6:30pm until 7pm;  
Parade 7pm to 7:30pm

The Kerrytown District Association along with the Tübingen Sister City Group of Ann Arbor presents the second annual Children's Lantern Parade modeled after the German St. Martin tradition that celebrates Samaritan deeds. Your children are invited to join in illuminating the neighborhood with colorful lanterns while singing American Christmas carols. \$10 per lantern or \$3 if you bring your own, or just come to watch!

## KINDLEFEST WINE TASTING

Friday, Dec 2nd, 7pm until 9pm in Kerrytown.  
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## Whose Tutu?

### *The Nutcracker, again*

The lights dim, the oboe plays an A to tune the orchestra, and the conductor lifts her baton to signal the commencement of the overture to *The Nutcracker* ballet. Again. This year will be my eighteenth season of playing in the pit orchestra for *The Nutcracker*.

I have played cello for most of my life, pursuing it seriously through my second year of music conservatory. I burned out and left the program, but still play professionally; like most musicians, I travel all over for gigs. I've played for the Comic Opera Guild, done plenty of weddings, and performed for the occasional church service, and every December I travel to Plymouth to play the three performances of *The Nutcracker*.

It is a wonderful avocation, although like any job it has benefits and drawbacks. One benefit is that I get to play many great pieces of music, including *The Nutcracker* ballet. One drawback is that I will have played it fifty-four times when 2011 draws to a close.

I have never actually seen the ballet while playing. From the pit at Salem High School, a good ten feet below the front of the stage, nothing is visible but the walls, and the audience is a faceless mass of noise. Every once in a while, I glimpse an arm or a leg at the edge of the stage. It is always the same arm in a red jacket, the same leg in a white tutu. Not much to go on if I wanted to follow the plot line.

I did see the ballet once as a child, but I hardly remember the story. I know there are mice, there are fights, there are dances from many cultures, and of course there's the Sugar Plum Fairy. I don't remember who exactly the Sugar Plum Fairy is, but the audience is invited to have tea with her and the other dancers after every performance, and it seems to be a highlight of the experience.

I can hear, and sometimes feel, the clomping of the wooden-toed shoes at the conclusion of a leap. During one scene, dry-ice mist slithers over the edge of the stage into the pit, invariably causing several musicians to break into coughing fits. In another scene, I nearly drop my bow when the sound of a small cannon apparently marks the climax of one of those fight scenes. I can't spend too much energy straining to see what is going on, as I might lose my place in the music. This happens rarely, however, as I have memorized nearly every note of the two-and-a-half-hour production, from overture to finale.

Back in the day, the pit orchestra was much larger, and we had rehearsals aplenty. It was a bit more festive then, as cookies and candy were passed through the pit to help celebrate the holiday. This is no longer the case, and no one thinks to bring



COURTESY AMY KURAS

*During one scene, dry-ice mist slithers over the edge of the stage into the pit, invariably causing several musicians to break into coughing fits. In another scene, I nearly drop my bow when the sound of a small cannon apparently marks the climax of one of those fight scenes. I can't spend too much energy straining to see what is going on, as I might lose my place in the music.*

snacks. There seems barely to be time to fit in a dress rehearsal, much less wipe chocolate off our fingerboards.

During the intermissions (there are two), our pit becomes a sort of zoo display. Parents with little girls clad in velvet dresses and shiny bows lean over the railing and gleefully point to our instruments; it's a rare opportunity to see a cello or clarinet up close. I try to hide behind a magazine or pretend to nap, but we often have no choice but to engage with the young audience. I know I should be more gracious toward our fans, but I dearly need the mental break before the intermission is over and we proceed to Act II.

For a couple of years, I deliberately planned my vacation to miss *The Nutcracker*. It was just too many performances, and I needed a break. In the conservatory, they never told me that someday I would be repeating the same melody enough times to rob the joy from even "Frosty the Snowman."

Despite many years of playing the same music, there are always moments where its beauty deeply moves me. Some movements of *The Nutcracker* make me smile, while others are just plain fun to play. And

then there is the enchanting oboe solo of the Arabian dance, an exotic, longing melody that can send me into a trance (partly because I play only two notes, repeated hundreds of times).

Many productions use recorded music nowadays, so I am grateful that this ballet company still employs a live orchestra. It isn't cheap to hire musicians, and as a consequence, our orchestra has become smaller each year. The piano plays the harp parts, and a dance scored for three flutes is now played by one flute, a clarinet, and an oboe. The worst insult, however, is the instrumentation of the Pas de Deux, which features a heart-wrenching cello melody. With the cutbacks, this cello part is now doubled by the viola section. It is difficult to endure.

Despite my rant, I do—yes, really—look forward to those moments when the joyous music transcends the tedium of repetition, and I feel fortunate to play such a masterpiece. And maybe someday I will actually be in the audience at a performance of *The Nutcracker* ballet, so that I can understand the role of the Sugar Plum Fairy, and see who is behind the red sleeve and the white tutu.

—Amy Kuras

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# The Better Angels of Ann Arbor?



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Crime is down—way, way, way down.

by James Leonard

**T**his past summer, two men sexually assaulted seven women in and around the U-M campus. A rash of burglaries last year enraged folks on the near northwest side. And just a few weeks ago, a thief or thieves broke into four cars in Gallup Park and stole three purses, two cell phones, an iPad, and physical therapy equipment—and what kind of depraved person steals physical therapy equipment?

Given those terrible crimes and all the others reported every day by the national, state, and local media, it's hard to believe that crime in Ann Arbor has dropped like a rock over the last twenty-five years. But the numbers don't lie. In the four major categories tracked on the Ann Arbor Observer's monthly Crime Map—robbery, sexual assault, vehicle theft, and burglary—the number of crimes reported has fallen by an amazing 70 percent, from 2,670 in 1986 to 790 in 2010.

Robbery, sexual assault, and vehicle theft are rare enough that rates sometimes fluctuate by 30 percent or more from year to year. To iron out those oscillations, we compared rates for individual crimes based on five-year averages—1986–1990 vs. 2006–2010.

Between those two periods, violent crime was cut in half: robbery fell 52 percent, from an average 157 to seventy-five

per year, and sexual assault 51 percent, from an average 131 to sixty-four per year. Property crime dropped even more: burglary by 63 percent, from an average 1,647 to 605 per year, and vehicle theft by an astounding 71 percent, from an average 526 to 155 per year—much of that due to better car lock systems.

Mayor John Hieftje and police chief Barnett Jones knew crime had dropped over the last decade, because the AAPD's analysis unit keeps them well apprised of recent crime trends. But Jones is stunned

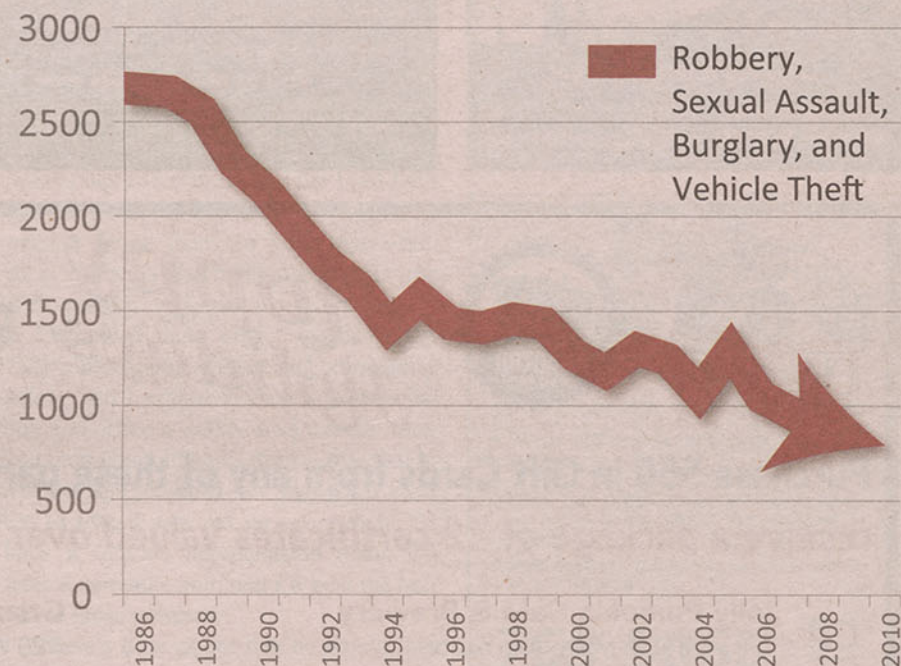
*"Amazing," says Carl Ent, Ann Arbor's police chief from 1995 through 2000. "That's staggering. Does that mean we're all becoming better people?"*

by the size of the longer-term pattern documented in the Observer's crime maps and checked against FBI and Michigan State Police statistics.

"Your numbers are ... wow," says Jones.

Hieftje says he isn't surprised by the decline, but he admits, "nobody's ever seen crime down like this—I've never seen numbers like this."

"Wow!" exclaims Greg O'Dell, unconsciously echoing Jones, his former boss.



Ann Arbor police chief Barnett Jones and U-M DPS chief Greg O'Dell had the same reaction to the long-term decline documented in twenty-five years of Ann Arbor Observer Crime Maps: "Wow!"

Currently chief of the U-M Department of Public Safety, O'Dell was deputy chief of the AAPD before that. "I would never have guessed. Those numbers are wonderful!"

Ingrid Sheldon, mayor from 1993 through 2000, pauses before saying, "that's pretty impressive."

"Amazing," says Carl Ent, Ann Arbor's police chief from 1995 through 2000. "That's staggering. Does that mean we're all becoming better people?"

1986 to 1,416 in 1994. This decline wasn't unique to Ann Arbor: crime across the state dropped in the same four categories, though not as much. While Michigan's total crime rate fell 32 percent, ours dropped by 47 percent.

The most likely reason for the decline can be summed up in a single word: jail. More arrests, longer sentences, fewer paroles, and a prison-building spree between 1986 and 1996 almost tripled Michigan's prisoner population, from 15,000 to 42,000. The best evidence that increased incarceration worked in Michigan is that the national crime rate kept right on climbing until 1993—then began dropping when the whole nation went on a prison-building spree.

"Most police wouldn't say this, but there needs to be enough prisons for the people who need to be there," says former AAPD chief Carl Ent. "It's the 'hot stove' theory: if you touch it, you're going to get burned." Ent knows from experience that increased incarceration works. "When the sheriff's department's jail was packed, they'd have to release prisoners back into the community, and when they did, the crime rate always went up."

"It makes sense," Greg O'Dell agrees. "If you lock up career criminals you'll reduce crime, because a large fraction of crimes are committed by a small fraction of the criminals."

**T**hat's actually one theory. But there have been other, more tangible factors at work. Because crime hasn't fallen all at once and it hasn't fallen steadily. It fell in three distinct waves—and the first decline was the steepest.

In the first nine years, the number of robberies, sexual assaults, burglaries, and vehicle thefts tracked on the Crime Map dropped straight down—from 2,670 in



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## The Better Angels of Ann Arbor?

The second decline was less steady but still unmistakable. Though violent crimes fell again in 1995, property crimes rose and took the total in all four categories up to 1,567 in 1996. But thereafter, the downward trend resumed; despite one more upward bump, in 2002, the total fell to 1,066 by 2004—another 32 percent drop in eight years.

Again, increased incarceration may have helped. As Michigan's prison population rose from 42,000 in 1996 to 51,000 in 2006, the state's crime rate dropped with it, though again not nearly as far as it did in Ann Arbor. But the city's mayor and police chief through much of the '90s credit most of the decline to community policing—getting cops out of their cars and stations and onto the street. "Those were the good years," remembers Ingrid Sheldon. "Because of increased property values, we had an increased police presence, and because of grants from the feds, we were able to add bike patrols, beat patrols, and community policing."

Expanding community policing was Carl Ent's charge when he was hired in 1995. "The mentality used to be 'you call, we haul,'" explains Ent, now a vice president at the Bank of Ann Arbor. "In other words, we got called and we responded by showing up, almost always after the crime was committed. Community policing ... put officers out in the neighborhoods where they got to know people. Once that started, crime went up because there were more reports of crimes—and then it went down, because the number of people who commit crimes are few in number, and if you put them away, you can really make a dent in crime."

As Sheldon notes, there were also more cops in town—and not just AAPD officers. The university started its own police force in 1990 with eight officers, and the number rose to about fifty-four by the end of the decade. With the AAPD's 200, that meant in the year 2000, 254 cops were patrolling the city and the campus.

The U-M officers helped make the '90s a golden age for law enforcement. "Having a whole new police force in town permitted us to look at ways to enhance downtown and take care of other things that needed taking care of," says Sheldon. "Gang violence disappeared, and so did most of the graffiti. Policing in low-income housing got tougher. And on campus, property crimes went down because of the new police force."

Not everything was golden in the '90s. "We had two serial rapists," Greg O'Dell remembers. "Both were eventually caught. One person makes a huge difference in total number of crimes in some categories."

"Large numbers of burglaries and rapes are committed by one person," confirms Carl Ent, "and once he's caught, the number goes back down. But because the numbers are so small, it has a big impact on the rates."

It certainly does. When the serial rapists were at large in 1992-93 and 1996-97,



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MARK BIALEK

The new county jail speaks to one likely explanation for the decline: since 1986, Michigan's prison population has almost tripled.

sexual assaults jumped 35 and 27 percent from the year before. That sounds enormous, but the actual numbers were from 97 to 131 and from 99 to 126—with much of the differences attributable to single individuals.

"If you look at the percentages in some categories, some people see a dramatic trend," says O'Dell. "And sometimes there isn't one."

**T**he third and most recent decline was the second steepest and the least explicable. In 2005, increases in all four categories bumped the total number of crimes reported on the Observer maps up to 1,293. Then the count fell for five years straight, hitting a new low of 790 in 2010. Last year the city and U-M forces recorded 39 percent fewer crimes than they had five years earlier, and 70 percent fewer than the AAPD alone handled in 1986. The biggest reductions were in burglaries, from a high of 1,791 in 1987 to 524, and in vehicle thefts, which peaked at 647 in 1986 and dwindled to 130 in 2010.

Increased incarceration can't explain the latest drop, since Michigan's prison population fell during the last five years. Even more confounding, crime continued to shrink right through the biggest economic crisis of the postwar era, which drove the local unemployment rate to 8.6 percent last year—upending the old law enforcement adage that more unemployment means more crime.

U-M police chief O'Dell offers another explanation: "It's because of the decline of young people. We have some crime from people in their fifties and sixties, but very little compared with the number of crimes committed by people in their teens and early twenties. A large number of crimes are crazy impulse crimes fueled by drugs and alcohol, and younger people have more trouble with alcohol and drugs."

It's true that the rest of Michigan has grown grayer over the last decade. But that doesn't appear to be the case in Ann Arbor. Since 1986, the public-school headcount has increased by about 15 percent, and U-M enrollment is at an all-time high.

Jones believes more advanced tech-

nology has played a part. "Citizens have cell phones with cameras, plus we have surveillance cameras around town now, and it's helped us in a number of cases. Of course, this community doesn't want them. But we don't want to monitor them—we don't have the manpower to do it even if we wanted to!—we only look at them after the crime has been committed."

Catching more criminals surely played a part. "We'd never had a serial rapist in town since I'd been here until last summer," says Jones, who was hired in 2006. "Before this year, we had random occurrences, mostly people who knew each other, never guys running around groping women. One guy we caught. The other one we're still looking for—but we'll get him. It's personal for me. He did this in my community."

The AAPD also got the northwest burglar. "That neighborhood was enraged and rightly so," remembers Jones. "We knew about it. We knew we had somebody out there who didn't belong. Turned out it was a young man who'd moved in and thought he'd found a great new fishing hole. We caught the people around him, the people who were buying and selling the stuff he stole, and then we caught him."

**W**hat about Carl Ent's question? Is it possible that fewer people today are criminally inclined—that people

really are getting nicer?

"There is less violence in the world for sure," says Hieftje. "I read about it in the *New York Times*. So people may indeed be becoming nicer." Hieftje is referring to Steven Pinker's *The Better Angels of our Nature*, which demonstrates over 700 pages that human violence has declined enormously over the past 10,000 years and that humanity is currently enjoying the safest times in history.

Hieftje can point to local examples. "There're no more sports riots on South U"—though, admittedly, U-M fans have lately had less to celebrate. "There're fewer and less often fatal fights outside nightclubs. Assaults are down this year, and last year, twenty assaults alone can be attrib-

uted to one place: the Dream Night Club."

Carl Ent thinks it's possible people are getting nicer. "People want to be nice. It's just a lot easier. But I don't have a tragic view of human nature—I think times change, and so do people."

The current chief doesn't share his predecessor's optimism. "Human beings have a sinful nature," says Jones, who's a Pentecostal preacher as well as a cop. "I'd love to believe [the reduction in crime] is because goodness has triumphed over evil, like I'd love for the crime rate to be zero. But I don't think it will ever happen, and I have to be ready for the next new crime. It's my job to be a pessimist."

Even with less crime, no past or present mayor or police chief says Ann Arbor should have fewer cops. Right now, the AAPD has 118 officers and the U-M DPS has fifty-four, for a total of 172. That's 32 percent fewer than ten years ago—but, then, crime is down 38 percent for the same period.

"We need more cops," insists Jones. "My job is public welfare and community safety, and I require bodies to secure the city and officers' safety. I've thought long and hard about it, and I think a reasonable number is 150. With that many, I'd have ten to fifteen cars out on every shift, I'd have a fugitive apprehension team, I'd have a narcotics unit, and I'd beat the hell out of those numbers!"

There's little doubt that he would, but increasing the number of cops isn't likely in the current economy. However, after shrinking the AAPD by 41 percent over the last decade, Hieftje says he doesn't want to shrink it any further. "Our budget next year calls for 10 to 12 percent reductions in almost every department, but I want no further reductions in the police department. In fact, we have a new contract now, so we'll be able to hire back the four officers we laid off in July." (See UpFront, p. 9.) What would he like Chief Jones to do with them? "I'd like to see more officers downtown," the mayor replies.

"Should we lower staffing levels?" O'Dell asks rhetorically. "It depends on what other activities the police engage in," he answers. "There's very little crime at football games, but you still need staff to direct traffic and do crowd control. There's a lot more to policing than the crime numbers."

According to the Crime Map data, the four categories tracked have fallen another 13 percent in the first nine months of 2011. But despite those long- and short-term trends, both Hieftje and Jones think the crime rate is likely to go back up in the future.

"We are having an exceptional year this year, so it's almost bound to go up next year," says Hieftje.

"It's got to because it's down so low," affirms Jones. "Next year may be normal, which will be up."

Perhaps. But the new Ann Arbor is still far more peaceful than the old one. Neither the mayor nor the police chief expects crime to return to the levels of the 1980s. That may be the surest sign of the city's transformation: crime rates that were "normal" twenty-five years ago would seem today like a terrible assault. ■



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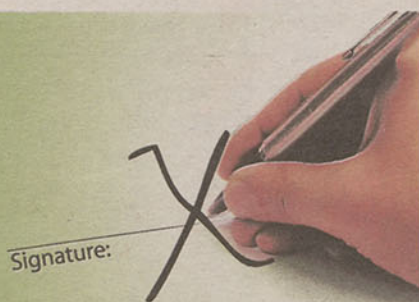
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# THE HOARDER WITHIN

by Eve Silberman

Sometimes, our possessions possess us. Working with no money and a lot of patience, a local group helps people get back in control—and open their curtains.

I'll call her "Flora." The neighborhood kids called her "the witch of Burns Park."

She had inherited her gracious home from her father, a distinguished U-M professor. She drove around town in an old red pickup truck collecting junk, including broken bikes, which piled up in her yard. Bags of stuff disappeared inside. Former city attorney Bruce Laidlaw recalls that "on trash days, she would be seen going from can to can to collect stuff. ... When asked why, she said it was to give to the St. Vincent de Paul Society."

As neighbors' complaints mounted, Laidlaw says, his assistant helped Flora haul away boxes of stuff. But "then she began collecting it again." Finally, in 1994, the city did a major intervention, sending police officers and firefighters to the house along with social worker Tom Fournier, who'd been appointed Flora's temporary guardian. The house was so full of junk, Fournier recalls, that they couldn't get in the front door, so "the fire department ran a ladder up to the second floor." (He later found that Flora had been using a "hidden door" in back.) Fournier followed the firefighters up the ladder. Inside, he eased past walls of stuff, some of it piled on top of "beautiful, top-quality old furniture."

Flora's situation was eventually resolved when her brother, who lived out of state, agreed to take legal responsibility for her. The house sold, Flora was moved to an apartment, and the Burns Park "witch" disappeared from the neighborhood.

Today, the wide-eyed kids would be more likely to label their troubled neighbor a "hoarder." Had Flora lived in the age of reality TV, she might have been featured on "Hoarders," or "Hoarding: Buried Alive." The shows' cameras zoom in on haunted-eyed individuals in can-you-believe-it residences as they struggle—

often under the threat of eviction—to relinquish objects that, however worthless they appear to others, hold meaning for them. A team of helpers—relatives, therapists, and people with titles like "clutter expert"—spur them on, or try to. Dramatic arcs build as hoarders stand firm, family members quarrel, and the "intervention team" attempts on-the-spot therapy.

"We hate those shows!" says Laurie Lutomski, an administrator at Synod Residential Services and a leader of the Washtenaw County Hoarding Task Force. "They rush in for three days and [make it look as if] they're going to change people's lives. They don't show all the ongoing issues and the anxiety."

Lutomski helped organize the task force eight years ago, working with social worker Harriet Bakalar. In her small office in the bustling Turner Center, Bakalar recalls how an apartment manager asked her to talk to an older woman whose apartment was so cluttered that "maintenance could not get to her air conditioner to fix it." Gradually, Bakalar earned the woman's trust, and

with the help of an out-of-state relative got the place cleaned up.

Bakalar soon discovered that other social workers had encountered similar situations and were uncertain how to respond. Under the umbrella of the Housing Bureau for Seniors, where Bakalar runs an eviction-prevention program, she and Lutomski educated themselves on hoarding, then enlisted representatives of a dozen other social service organizations to form the task force. More recently, the city has signed on as well.

The task force has no money except for a pittance it gets from the housing bu-

reau's yearly fundraising walk. But the program's reputation is such that Bakalar fields queries about it from around the state and beyond, and often is invited to speak to classes and groups.

"When I go give lectures I tell them to forget everything they saw" on TV, Bakalar says. "No one thinks reality TV shows treat it [hoarding] in a way productive for anything but entertainment." Because the shows focus on "extreme cases, we miss everybody else on the spectrum," Bakalar explains. "It's too easy to see 'those people over there' as crazy."

Lisha Turner-Tolbert sees hoarding problems in her job as the city's manager of rental housing. In her two years with the city, Turner-Tolbert says, she and her team have inspected ten apartments with potentially dangerous situations caused by hoarding—for example, possessions blocking a window or an exit. The inspectors issue warnings and try to connect the resi-

dents to the task force. Some people "are quite ashamed," Turner-Tolbert says.



COURTESY HARRIET BAKALAR

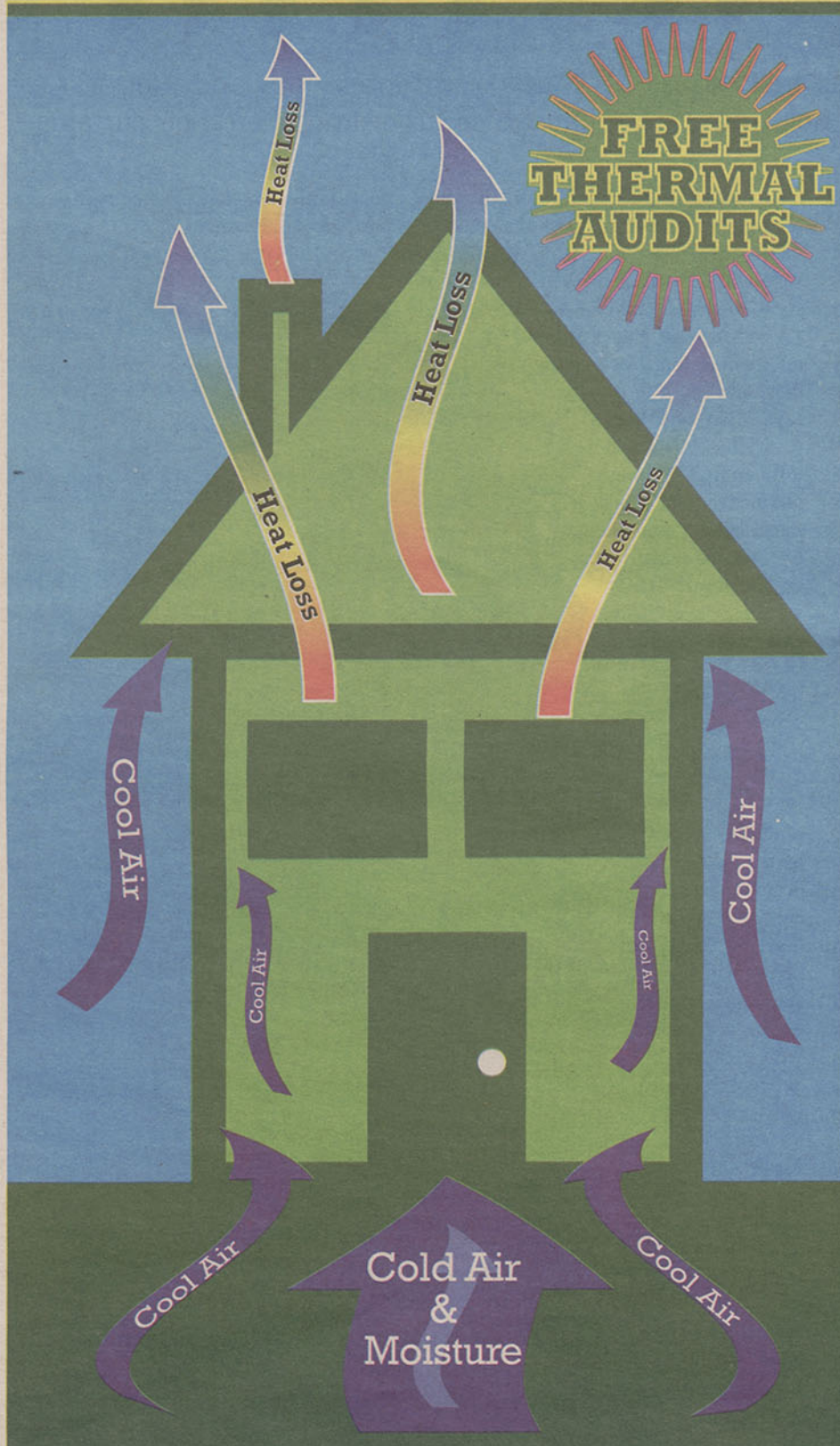




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# THE HOARDER WITHIN

Others "absolutely didn't see what the problem is." They tell her, "I know where everything is. You guys are picking on me. You're infringing on my rights."

Neat and well organized herself, Turner-Tolbert says the experience has given her a keen sense of how easy it is for things to pile up: "everyone knows a neighbor or sister or relative" who has trouble letting go of things.

In their 2010 book *Stuff*, therapists Randy Frost and Gail Steketee observe that many people who hoard are strongly visual: "For hoarders, every object is rich with detail," they write. For example, the "color and hue of a magazine cover" alone might be reason to save it.

This insight recalled for me the first (and only) time I entered the home of a former college roommate, who lives in another state. We were both about thirty at the time, and I needed a place to crash for the night. She seemed reluctant to let me stay with her, and I understood why the minute I stepped into her living room. Her four cats' scratching poles, food dishes, and toys occupied the center of the room, surrounded by piles of newspapers and magazines, kitchen utensils, nice pieces

of pottery, and, what struck me the most, a floor lamp with a Tiffany-style glass shade, its price tag still dangling. My roommate had paid \$175 for a lamp that was plugged into nothing and stood in the middle of piles of junk.



MARK BIALEK

David French approaches clients with "empathy and understanding and lots of garbage bags."

Standing next to me, "Melissa" teared up. "It could be such a beautiful place, couldn't it?" she asked. Melissa had always had an appreciation for artistry I lacked. Looking around, she was seeing, perhaps, the home she had meant to create before the hoarder within her—for whatever reason—took over.

## Children of Hoarders

Elizabeth Nelson also works to make people aware of the complexities of compulsive hoarding, but with a different emphasis. Nelson is co-founder of Children of Hoarders, a nonprofit that reaches out to people who, like her, grew up in homes to which they were ashamed to bring friends.

Married, the mother of two, and active in school affairs, Nelson moderates COH's online support group on Yahoo.com. She also leads a local in-person support group that meets monthly at Trinity Lutheran Church. The youngest of four children, Nelson recalls that her mother "kept every present she ever got, any school paper we ever wrote, bags and bags of thrift shop clothes."

Motivated by safety concerns (their father was ill), Nelson and her adult siblings once secretly cleaned their parents' home while they were out of town. Nelson recalls that, when her mother returned, she was "speechless"—and not with gratitude. "She



stayed up for the first night making a list of all the things" she felt her children had "stolen." This spring, the family did another cleaning. Her mother no longer speaks to her.

One reason Nelson would like the complexities of "hoarding households" better understood is that many people assume that family members, if only they tried, could cure hoarders of their compulsion. When she mailed out Children of Hoarders brochures to thrift shops around the country, an irate employee in Ohio refused to post it. The hoarding would stop, she lectured Nelson, if she just "spent more time with your mother."

Another Ann Arbor woman told me tearfully about her repeated, unsuccessful attempts to get her elderly mother to acknowledge her hoarding problem. Both her parents are physically frail, and she believes that their home is an accident waiting to happen. "And when it does," she says bitterly, "People will say, 'Where were the children?'"

—E.S.



COURTESY ELIZABETH NELSON

After Elizabeth Nelson and her siblings cleaned their parents' home, her mother stayed up all night listing things they'd "stolen."

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## THE HOARDER WITHIN

Synod Residential Services provides the Hoarding Task Force's phone number (483-9363, ext. 22); usually Synod's Lutomski or Harriet Bakalar returns calls. Last year, Lutomski says, they received eighty-two inquiries about hoarding; typically they work with twelve to eighteen people at a time.

In a back room at Synod's office in Ypsilanti, employee Dave French shows me some items recently relinquished by people he helps: TV remotes, a life-sized plastic chicken, a cutting board, a garbage bag filled with clothes. It will all be given to charity or recycled. The lanky French, who looks to be in his late thirties, has a breezy, relaxed demeanor. The task force stresses that helpers must be nonjudgmental, which is no problem for French, an off-hours freelance music producer. "Everybody's got crises!" he says cheerfully. "I'm not there as their therapist."

French says that he approaches clients with "empathy and understanding and lots of garbage bags." Like other task force workers, he will not throw away anything without the owner's permission. "He picks something up and says, 'Tell me what to do with it,'" says one of his clients, whom I'll call "Carol."

Carol is a respected professional in her field, neat in appearance, articulate. A decade ago, both of her parents died within a short time, and she inherited their belongings—her mother's clothes, her dad's voluminous files. She also experienced medical

crises that affected her mobility, making it difficult to lift or bend. And she likes to shop. "It just snowballed,"

she says. But with French's help, she's now making progress in clearing out her home. "Every week we'd throw out three garbage bags full of things," she says, and she feels



COURTESY HARRIET BAKALAR



much more in control.

Bakalar says that a person who's motivated can almost always make progress in combating clutter. She feels she's succeeded if clients gain enough control of their possessions to remain in their home. She stresses that "does not mean we clean everything in sight, or [that it looks like] *House Beautiful*."

Dave French says that clients almost always thank him for his help. A particularly moving moment comes when they let him open windows long curtained to hide the clutter from passersby: "The light comes in, and they get happier."

**“W**orking with the task force has been invaluable,” emails

Kristen Larcom of the city attorney's office who, by default, has ended up as the "hoarding" attorney. The city prefers not to have to take hoarders to court—when that happens, the hours, headaches, and expenses add up fast.

Such was the case when the city tangled with the owners of a home in the Angell School area. The owner of the house next door, retired engineering prof Brice Carnahan, says he filed a complaint with the city about the home in 2006. He described it as a "fire hazard," noting broken windows and a second-floor room "piled from floor to ceiling with flammable materials." But the city apparently didn't take action until late 2008, when it began a series of inspections. An inspector who talked to the homeowner on the phone quoted her as saying that "she is a packrat and so was her mother," the house's original owner. Though the task force was able to make progress on the clutter, the house had deeper problems. In mid-2009, the city declared it "uninhabitable."

When the residents—a family, according to court documents—refused to leave, the city went to court, asking that the house be declared a "public nuisance." The home was finally vacated last winter, and was sold in May. Carnahan says the new owners have completely gutted and rebuilt it.

Most of the task force's stories have happier endings. One of the first people they helped, Bakalar recalls, was an "impeccably dressed" seventy-six-year old retired professor who had lived in the same small apartment more than thirty years. He had a "very active social life," recalls Bakalar, but he conducted it all outside his apartment, which was filled to overflowing with stuff.

To enter the apartment for the first time, recalls Bakalar, "I had to turn sideways." But the man was very motivated, and within two months the place was transformed. He told Bakalar that he did not want his nieces and nephews, his heirs, to be stuck with the clean-up.

Not long after the job was finished, he died. Whatever had haunted him in life, he'd made sure it would not trouble his family after his death. ■

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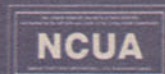
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**P**artly because redistricting is about to reduce the number of Ann Arbor commissioners

from four to three, and partly because they're in their seventies, Barbara Bergman and Leah Gunn are retiring at the end of 2012 after a combined thirty-six years on the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners.

"Losing Barbara and Leah is like a one-two punch," says board

chair Conan Smith. "We'll be losing all that expertise and experience when the need is so great."

Bergman and Gunn have had a huge impact on the county's human services programs. "The things they've fought for will be in the character of the county for generations," Smith says. "The Delonis Center [homeless shelter] and the juvenile detention center alone changed things in an almost permanent way."

The two veteran commissioners came to the county board from very different backgrounds, Bergman from the criminal justice system and Gunn from ward politics. But they shared a positive vision of government and what it can do for citizens.

"In the '70s, I worked in runaway services in Wayne County and in children's juvenile justice as an advocate," remembers Bergman. She also earned an MSW from the U-M and spent three years as a probation officer for the county's 14-A district court. "That's always been my focus: kids in jail."

"I first ran in '92 after the census and a new Ann Arbor [commission] district was created," she continues. "The county was already championing human services. I wanted to continue to do good work."

Bob Guenzel, county administrator from 1994 through 2010, says Bergman's support for human services was "unwavering." Barbara's strong points are her intelligence, passion, and commitment to the county. She says some things that sometimes take people aback, but she listens to strong arguments."

Current administrator Verna McDaniel goes further. "Barbara is a wild woman. She says what's on her mind. She's real upfront and does not hide her feelings. She's relentless. She'll stay on you, and if she is, oh my God, watch out!"

Leah Gunn started as a librarian at the U-M graduate and law libraries, but her avocation led to her true career. "When I moved to West Stadium in '69, the block captain was going to have a baby, and she asked me to take over her job. This



J. ADRIAN WYLIE

Barbara Bergman's victories include marshaling the votes to build a new juvenile detention center. Leah Gunn (right) helped lead the fight to build the Delonis Center homeless shelter—and was rewarded with a recall campaign.

## Retiring Champions

*As cuts loom, the county commission loses its strongest advocates for human services.*

was back in the days of index cards in a shoebox. I worked in the organization and managed campaigns and got to know all the Democrats so when [commissioner] Meri Lou Murray retired in '96, I was the logical one. And I had no opposition."

Gunn describes herself as "a bleeding-heart liberal, always have been, always will be. I learned it from JFK. I believe we have a moral imperative to care for the more vulnerable in our community."

Bob Guenzel doesn't disagree with Gunn's self-estimation but adds that she's "very politically astute. She understands the trade-offs you have to make. She's very smart, very strong-willed, and she tells it as it is. It adds to her credibility. Sometimes she comes on too strong, but it's usually for a good cause."

Gunn is a strategist and a deal maker, and she wants to take the peaceful route, says McDaniel. "But you better come prepared to change her mind with empirical data. Don't come in limping with anecdotal information. She needs facts and figures."

Comparing Bergman and Gunn, McDaniel says, "they're both fighters, but Leah's going to come into the ring and figure out your moves while Barbara's just going to come in and hit you between the eyes!"

**T**he two most tangible monuments to Bergman and Gunn are the Delonis Center on Huron and the Washtenaw County Youth Center on Washtenaw, both opened in 2003.

"Leah was an ardent leader in the de-

velopment of Delonis Center," says board chairman Smith, "and for her efforts, she was rewarded with a recall campaign!"

Though few issues split the board along party lines, this one did. But the canny Gunn knew how to work it. "The Delonis shelter divided us Democrat versus Republican," she recalls, "but we had support from Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, and Superior Township, and we had the majority of Democrats."

*"They're both fighters," says county administrator Verna McDaniel, "but Leah's going to come into the ring and figure out your moves while Barbara's just going to come in and hit you between the eyes!"*

It was nearly the same for Bergman over the juvenile detention center, though without the recall campaign. "I fought hard for the center—and that was a close fight," she remembers. "Some of the Republican and the out-county commissioners fought it tooth and nail. But we won because we got six votes."

"I was for the jail expansion too, and people gave me heat over it. Look, I don't want to put more people in jail, but when we do put people in jail, they're in our keeping, and we have a responsibility to them."

**T**n recent years, Bergman and Gunn haven't

been trying to expand human services—they've had all they

can do to maintain the ones already offered. The two-year budget adopted in November cuts funding to outside groups, including the Humane Society of Huron Valley, in half (see Inside Ann Arbor, p. 11). Funds for human service groups like the United Way were cut by one-third, from \$1.46 to \$1.03 million.

"It's worse now—much, much worse," says Bergman. "People want to do good work, but we're out of bucks. We were a world-leading county in human services, and now the vulnerable are going to be hurt."

Gunn isn't giving up. "We want to restore them [the proposed cuts]. We're going to find it somewhere and give it back."

Bergman sees a way out. "I would personally support a human services millage, and I think this is going to happen, whether or not I'm on the board."

It could happen soon. "This board wants to do it," says Smith, "and I expect we'll have to have that conversation soon if we want it on [the ballot] in 2012. We'll try for next May."

If that happens, promoting the millage could be Bergman and Gunn's last project on the board. But after they retire, Bergman predicts that other commissioners will step up. "I can rest easy with [Ann Arbor Democrat] Yousef Rabhi and [Chelsea Republican] Rob Turner, and Conan really cares. Plus [former John Dingell staffer] Andy LaBarre has just declared he's running [for my seat], and he shares my passion for human services."

"I don't think the overall support will change much," Gunn agrees. "Yousef Rabhi and Rob Turner are both committed to human services. And if Conan doesn't support human services, I'll take a baseball bat to his house at night!"



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# Mr. ELLIE POOH, HogWASH, and GLO

## Our 2011 Holiday Shopping Guide

by Tony McReynolds

**W**hen my son stopped believing in Santa Claus this year I thought I was off the hook. Because when he'd ask Santa for something, I was the one who had to come through. Santa can't tell a kid, "Sorry, I don't have the money to buy you that right now." Once my son stopped believing, I figured I didn't have to worry about making the big guy look good.

I was right as far as that went, but I'm not off the hook. In my son's opinion, I owed him something akin to emotional damages for raising him to believe in Santa and setting him up for a big fall. He wants the equivalent of a million-dollar settlement, and he wants it paid out in toys. Boy, is he gonna be disappointed.

If your child's having trouble dealing with disappointment, a Kimochi doll from Lexi's Toy Box on S. Ashley can help. These soft, interactive dolls are designed to help kids learn how to handle emotions. They come with three small pillows, each with a cartoon face expressing a different feeling, and a guide to help kids recognize, express, and process those emotions. They're \$26; the less conspicuous keychain-size Kimochi minis are popular with teens, probably because they're trying to process embarrassment. \$17. For good, old-fashioned stocking stuffers try Lexi's hand-carved, hand-painted wooden animals start-

ing at \$8. As Johnny Cash might sing, they got cows, they got pigs, they got sheep, they got mules, they got aaaaaallll livestock. He wouldn't sing they got dragons, but Lexi's has them nonetheless. \$24.

Anyone who's ever learned a basic three-chord change-up can bang out a tune with a guitar pick, but Acme Mercantile's guitar pick toothpicks are the only picks that double as Swedish meatball skewers at your next party. A set of 24 is \$8. In case you

missed it, Tiki is back in a big way. Get freaky with your Tiki with the Hui Kalui Tiki mug, designed by camp artist Sam Gambino. A vivid red, orange, and cream, it's the perfect receptacle for your fave Tiki themed umbrella drinks. \$12.

TV chef Rachel Ray made it into the Oxford English Dictionary with the acronym EVOO, her term for extra virgin olive oil. Which is not to be confused with Madonna's acronym LAVOO, or Like a Virgin Olive Oil. You can store your EVOO in a blue recycled wine bottle sandblasted with the word "Peace" and repurposed as a decorative olive oil container; it's \$32 at the Ann Arbor Art Center. Sketch pads with leather covers, a cherrywood spine, and brass rivets beg to be sketched in. They come with 100 sheets of recycled paper and start at \$55.

If you can't make the big game because you're busy slopping the hogs, you can still show your Michigan spirit with M Den's Game Bib bib overalls. Instead of the usual



(Counterclockwise from top) Kenyan table drum at Ten Thousand Villages, tiki mugs from Acme Mercantile, and Glo night lamp at Little Seedling.

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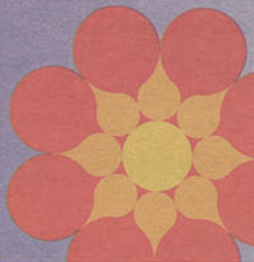
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## Our 2011 Holiday Shopping Guide

blue and white stripes, Game Bibs' stripes are—you guessed it—maize and blue. One size fits all, \$50. For stocking stuffers, grab a four-inch Smashers Football. Throw it, and it plays "Hail to the Victors" and "Let's Go Blue" on impact. \$15.

You'll find upscale Michigan merchandise at Carol Roeda on Main, like a wooden U-M game table with an inlaid maize-and-blue chess board and a drawer for holding game pieces. Very elegant, it's \$1,800. Little-known chess fact: if you play with maize and blue pieces, maize opens. Non-Michigan gifts include gorgeous, hand-crafted Lazy Susans made from birch, poplar, and driftwood and hand painted with whimsical imagery and messages like "Eat dessert first," "Kiss the cook," and "Mind Your Manners" for \$420.

Get someone interested in drumming

*When my son stopped believing  
in Santa Claus this year I thought  
I was off the hook. Because when  
he'd ask Santa for something,  
I was the one who had to  
come through.*

circles with a traditional African drum from Ten Thousand Villages on Main. They have a nice selection of handmade drums starting at \$95, like a carved wood and goatskin djembe for \$200, or a large, three-legged Kenyan table drum—aptly named because it doubles as a coffee table. \$145. You can make music on the cheap, too, with thumb pianos for \$14 and Panamanian pan flutes starting at \$10. Mr. Ellie Pooh is an eco-friendly Fair Trade company that makes paper products from elephant droppings. Not. Making. This. Up. Ten-sheet sets with envelopes are \$10, and honestly, they smell just fine.

Cherry Republic on Main sells products made from Michigan cherries, and if you can make it from cherries, they've got it. Get a cherry ketchup and cherry mustard box set for \$11. Cherry scone mix, \$7. Cherry salsas starting at \$6. Or encourage someone to relax with a cherry spa gift box: it includes Cherry Silk Body Lotion, Cherry Blossom Bath Salts, a 2" Black Cherry Scented Votive Candle, an 8-oz. bag of dark-chocolate-covered cherries, and a 10-count box of Tame Cherry tea bags, \$38. (iTunes download of Neil Diamond singing "Cherry, Cherry" sold separately.) Their cherry pitter isn't made with cherries; it's made from steel, and it works on olives, too. \$15.

Origami peace cranes were inspired by the Japanese tradition of folding one thousand paper cranes as a prayer for health, prosperity, and good fortune. If you're short of time and you'll settle for, say, health, you can buy enough paper to fold

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three hundred thirty-three and one-third peace cranes and be done with it. \$11 at Falling Water on Main. World of Thanks, a box of thank-you cards for kids, would be a great gift for the holidays. It includes tips for kids on how to write a thank-you note and decorative stickers so they can personalize them. \$15. Sample tip: Send thank-you notes within one to seven days. No tips on how to write a thank-you note for a gift of thank-you notes.

Know someone with carpal tunnel syndrome or arthritis? Key Assist helps grip keys comfortably, making locks easier to open. Keys fold into handle when not in use. \$6 at Vogel's on Washington. If you know someone who keeps losing their house keys, get them a Hide a Key rock. Just stick a key in the hidden compartment and place the rock in your garden. But remember where you put it—I know a guy with half a dozen Hide a Key rocks scattered around his yard because he can never remember which one's the fake one and has to keep buying more. \$6. If you

local watering holes like Conor O'Neills, the Blind Pig, and Ashley's. It's great for playing "How many places can you actually remember you were last night?" \$25 unframed. Unframed Fairy Doors of Ann Arbor posters are \$10.

If you give a gift that's made from recycled materials, is that, like, pre-gifting? I don't even know what that means, but you can regift guilt free with great recycled gifts from Found in Kerrytown. Like bracelets made from vintage license plates, \$14, rings made from lovely old vintage spoons, \$20, and a personal favorite, Pabst beer cap cufflinks. "Keener refreshment," right on your wrist. \$45.

Feel like a slave to the clock? Make time serve you, with 16 Hands' ingenious clocks made from forks, spoons, knives and even chafing dishes. Around \$70. Other eco-friendly products made from reclaimed or recycled materials include very cool \$80 laptop bags made from re-

purposed mosquito netting; they've also got a nifty mosquito netting coin purse for \$17.

If you know someone who suffers hangovers after killing off those last six ounces in the wine bottle because



(Above) Teahaus has teacups to fit many moods, including the brass-knuckled Fisticup. (Right) the Caravan Shop carries cufflinks made from baseballs used in actual Detroit Tiger games, and golf-club bottle openers.



can't remember, either, try a Hide a Key sprinkler head, also \$6.

Peaceable Kingdom is still stocking stuffer central, with an entire table of affordable, fun, and often eccentric items, like little rubber chickens for fifty cents, round dice (weighted so that they land with the numbers facing up), and clear plastic double dice—one die fits inside the other, so rolling snake eyes has never been easier.

For those who like soft-boiled eggs, an egg cozy makes a nice gift. Made of felt in the shape of dogs, cats, owls and other animals, they're \$10 at the Himalayan Bazaar on Main. The store also has traditional Nepalese shawls in brilliant colors made of a cuddly combo of 60 percent sheep's wool and 40 percent cotton. \$55. For the pet of the house, there's nothing like a \$6 Himalayan dog chew. Really. They're made from a combination of yak milk, cow milk, salt, and lime juice. As Rachel Ray's dog would say, "Yummo!"

You can relive your last pub crawl with a Pubs of Ann Arbor poster from the Art Spot on Main, featuring photos of popular

they knew it wasn't going to keep, the Private Preserve wine preserver at Everyday Wines is for them. It uses a shot of nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and argon—the same combination wineries use—to lay down a protective layer over the wine's surface that protects it from oxygen, which is what makes wine go bad in the first place. \$10.

If you need it clean, just say "Hogwash!" Or don't. But do consider Hogwash Soap from Emerald Dragonfly on Detroit St. At \$8.50, these big chunky bars fit nicely in a Christmas stocking and are purported to take out the toughest clothing stains. Also works as a hand scrub for gardeners, mechanics, and finger-painting kids. Russian nesting dolls are beautiful, but not very useful. But imagine nesting dolls that double as measuring cups. M Cups (the M stands for Measuring, not Michigan) are a nesting set of six dry-measure cups modeled after Russian matryoshka dolls. At \$12, they're usefully beautiful.

Anyone who's ever tried to give a dog a drink from a travel mug or a water fountain would appreciate a Popware for Pets

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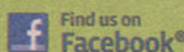
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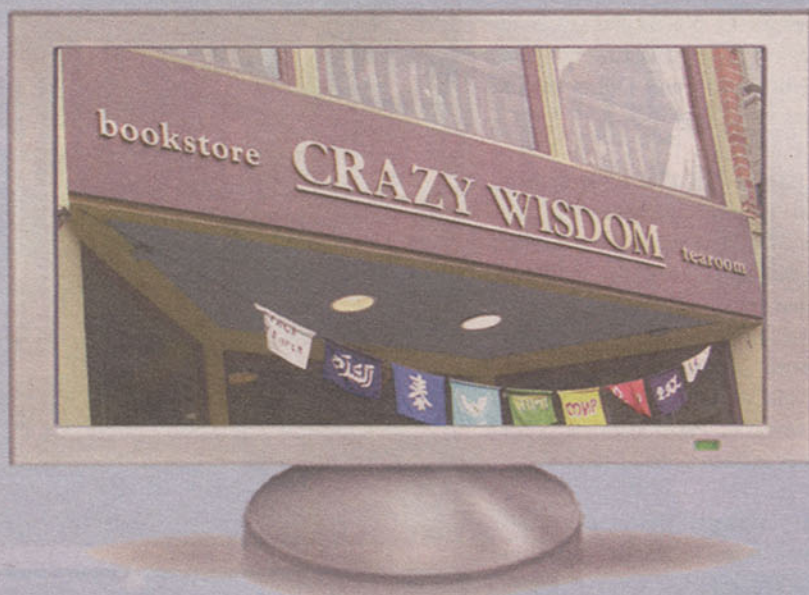


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## Our 2011 Holiday Shopping Guide

collapsible bowl from Dogma Catmantoo on Fourth Ave. For \$22, it's like a go cup for dogs. And dog lovers can wear dogs on their dogs with comfy socks featuring pictures of their favorite breed. A yellow lab on gray argyle is \$11.

If you know someone who likes their caffeinated morning beverage strong, and I mean strong like a smack in the face, get them a Fisticup from Teahaus. A white ceramic mug with a metal handle that looks like a set of brass knuckles, it's \$15. Cool stocking stuffers: lollipops made with Earl Grey tea, \$1.50 each. Picture Captain Picard sucking one.

Most of what you'll find at Heavenly Metal on Ann St. isn't made of metal—they carry a remarkably eclectic selection of women's clothing, shoes, jewelry, and more—but Thomas Mann's wonderfully intricate jewelry is. An acclaimed mixed-metal artist, Mann crafts pieces that incorporate elements as diverse as machine parts, electronic instruments, recycled costume jewelry, and old postcards. \$79. For stocking stuffers, pick up a few of Mann's hand-carved, cast pewter heart-shaped charms for \$5 each.

**T**he Caravan Shop in Nickels Arcade can get your Tigers fan into the game even when they're not at Comerica Park with \$75 cufflinks made from a baseball used in an actual Detroit Tigers game—you can even see the stitching. For the golfer on your list, try bottle openers made from the heads of real golf clubs—irons are \$70, woods are \$85, and they come in handy when you're playing that 19th hole.

If you're hoping to wean a kid from computer games, try doing it in stages by getting them to play a board game based on a computer game. Get Your Game On on State St. has a Super Mario chess set for \$50 featuring characters from the video games. Kids still get to move Mario around (he's a king), but they have to do it with their fingers and not a game controller. Younger ones might prefer Donkey Kong Jenga, \$25. The goal: help Mario reach the top of the precariously balanced tower and save Pauline.

I'm old enough to remember when leg warmers were big on campus the first time around. Apparently, so are a lot of alums out there, because the folks at American Apparel say lots of students buy them at the urging of their moms: "I used to wear those! You gotta get some!" They're \$18. Another big seller for the store, \$6 bottles of neon-bright nail polish, would look great in a stocking, even better on nails.

Pink Pump does, in fact, sell designer pink pumps, but they also sell awesome pink rain boots—as well as green, teal, turquoise, and yellow. Gifting someone shoes is sometimes a shaky proposition, but these are so cool, it's worth tracing the outline of someone's shoe on a piece of paper and bringing it to the store. Too big a stretch? The store also sells sassy clothing and accessories.

Style someone on your list on the cheap with "recycled" (i.e., used) T-shirts from Ragstock, just \$5 each. Not used, but really neat, are touchscreen-compatible gloves that have small conductive patches in index fingers and thumbs, making it



The ukulele has gone from hokey to hip with Mahalo's Flying V, available at Herb David. At Get Your Game On, Mario goes from video game to chess board.

easy to text, talk, or use touch screens outdoors without risking frostbite. \$6.

At Herb David, the ukulele has gone from hokey to hip, with the Flying V ukulele by Mahalo, \$70. It has a stunning V-shaped wooden body with glossy paint finish, round sound hole, and rosewood fingerboard. Comes in a riot of colors, and it's perfect for the uke player who wants to channel a rock 'n' roll guitar god. If you're going for the uke, pick up Jumpin' Jim's 25 Really Groovy Songs for ukulele, \$28. Includes 60s classics like "Georgy Girl," "Daydream Believer," "Moon River," "Those Were the Days," and several Beatles arrangements.

**T**here are two great things about candy: it's delicious, and a bag of it fills the toe of a stocking perfectly. By the Pound on S. Main is a great place for bulk treats, including Australian Kookaburra strawberry licorice, \$6 a pound; Swedish Fish, \$4 a pound; Skittles, \$3 a pound; and gourmet jelly beans, \$7 a pound for a 49-flavor mix. Just don't go pawing through the bin to make sure you get all forty-nine.

Help someone keep their dirty martini icy cold with the Ravencroft Crystal Martini Chiller set, \$21, from Morgan & York on Packard. The cone-shaped, lead-



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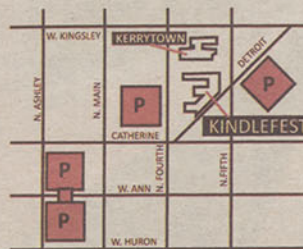


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free crystal martini glass has no stem, so it won't stay upright on its own. Instead, you rest it between sips in a matching crystal bowl filled with ice, making that last drop as good as the first. Those tiny dribbles of pinot noir that spill from the bottle as you finish pouring the wine may not ruin a holiday dinner, but they can ruin your host's tablecloth. If you're bringing a bottle of wine to a holiday celebration, add a \$5 Drop Stop, which, when inserted into the bottle neck, stops drips in their tracks. Their linen will thank you.

Counter-top composting is great for the planet, but many kitchen composters are so ugly they get hidden away—and therefore rarely used. Bgreen's green ceramic composter looks like a fresh head of lettuce and it's so pretty that if you weren't into composting you'd want to use it as a cookie jar. It holds almost two quarts of peelings, egg shells, coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable scraps and more for easy transfer to your garden compost heap. There's a charcoal filter to keep odors inside. \$35.

Used video games start at just a buck at Game Stop on Washtenaw, but some of them are worth exactly that, so if you're not a gamer yourself, your best bet is to ask the enthusiastic staffers which games are good—they know their stuff, and they love to point out their favorite bargains. Worried your youngster is spending too much time in front of the Wii and not enough time interacting with old-fashioned toys? Now they can do both, with Babysitting Mama. Put the Wii remote inside this plush doll, and wee players can simulate feeding, bathing, diaper-changing, and baby play. No idea how well the doll does at *Call of Duty: Black Ops*.

Barnes & Noble's electronic reader, the Nook, is giving Amazon's Kindle a run for its money. Now the store has Nook covers that are equally compelling. Made to look like canvas print book covers, one features the names of dozens of classic authors like Shakespeare, Camus, Dumas, Twain, and the name of one contemporary author that's jarringly out of place—what John Grisham is doing in that august company I'll never know. \$30. Still know people who read the old-fashioned way? Get 'em the \$30 World's Best Book Bag, complete with expandable side gussets, an organizer



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pocket for small items, genuine leather trim, solid brass grommets, and a cotton, eco-friendly canvas designed to hold a stack of great reads.

Georgetown Gifts has oven mitts shaped like Michigan's Lower Peninsula! Okay, all oven mitts are shaped like Michigan's Lower Peninsula. But *these* oven mitts have actual maps on them. For \$11, you can show people where you live *and* pull a hot pan out of the oven. For people with an appreciation for both the state of Michigan and true crime, pick up *Great Lakes Crime II: More Murder, Mayhem, Booze and Broads*, a \$20 compendium of Wolverine State misdeeds.

OXO Good Grips kitchen tools are so named because their ergonomic handles make them easy to grip, and Barnes Ace Hardware on Washtenaw stocks a ton of them. But in a fit of inspiration OXO finally came out with a kitchen tool that makes *other* kitchen tools easy to grip: OXO Good Grips oven mitts! They're made of silicone, good to 600 degrees Fahrenheit, and come with a little sewn-in magnet and a little sewn-on loop so you can stick them on a fridge or hang them on a hook, depending on your mood. OXO says they fit like a glove, which I'm still trying to figure out. \$15.

Cyclists in your life will be happy to know that they don't need hand pumps anymore. The Air Chuck Elite, from Wheels in Motion, inflates tires in seconds using CO<sub>2</sub> cartridges. \$20, and replacement cartridges are just \$10. For a sweet, old-timey gift, translucent, colorful Jellibell bicycle bells are not only adorable, but allow the workings of the bell to be seen. \$11.

Like many stores, Toys R Us is competing with dollar stores by offering its own in-store "dollar shop," and there are terrific bargains to be had. Consider a \$1 three-egg "fun putty" set, a \$3 light saber flashlight, or a \$5 balloon design kit with 20 balloons, a hopscotch set, pull-back racecars, and a children's book called *My Happy Penguin* about how to make others happy. (Hint: let



16 Hands carries many gifts made from repurposed materials, including this laptop case made from mosquito netting.

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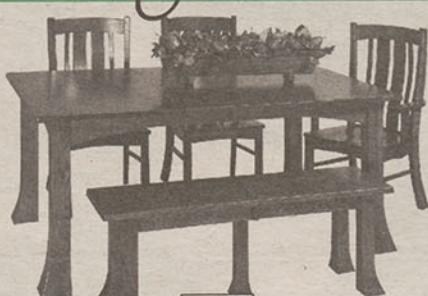
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## Our 2011 Holiday Shopping Guide



Give a Michigander a better way to show people where she lives—and pull hot pans from the oven—with Michigan oven mitts from Georgetown Gifts.

the penguin win sometimes.)

Faced with the daunting task of following up their hugely popular ten-years-in-the-making State Quarters Program, the United States Mint launched their America The Beautiful Quarters Program last year—fifty-six quarters featuring national parks and other national sites. Michael's sells a collector's map/display in the form of a big, acid-free archival board with a built-in game: collect all the quarters, one site from each state and U.S. territory, and complete one of fifty-six different map designs once your collection is complete. Which won't be until 2021, so you might want to get yourself a sandwich or something. \$11, quarters not included.

The words, "As Seen On TV" usually don't bode well for a product, but not everything sold on cable by manic pitchmen at 3 a.m. is necessarily cheesy, and some actually work as advertised and make great gifts. The \$13 Gyro Bowl at Bed, Bath & Beyond is one of them, a spill-proof children's bowl whose "special mechanism" (a rotating inner bowl) stays level even if the user is running, swinging, or biking. If you get someone the Zibra Open It!, make sure it's the first gift they open Christmas morning. It cuts through just about any kind of packaging but it comes in handiest when tackling those infuriating molded plastic clamshell containers.

Don't be the parent who forgets to have batteries on hand to run the new toys. At Everything Battery on Jackson, rechargeable batteries start at \$10 for a 4-pack of AAs, and battery chargers start at \$15. Indispensable: a wall-mounted rack for storing batteries, complete with integrated battery tester and thirty-six assorted batteries, \$29.

detachable, color-shifting orbs that kids can actually play with and even take to bed. \$70 at the Little Seedling on Zeeb. They also have a terrific wooden scooter for toddlers that's a blast to ride, helps develop balance and coordination, and has an abstract shape that makes it look like something you'd see in a catalog called Herman Miller Kids. \$120.

A softball pitcher who wants to improve his or her game will love a Spinright Spinner from Advantage Sports. It's a fast-pitch softball training aid that helps you learn by doing—or in this case, throwing. It comes with an instructional DVD that demonstrates the different grips necessary to achieve the correct spin and rotation for a fast ball, curve ball, change-up and more. Oddly enough, the spinner's not round; it's shaped like a softball-sized English muffin. There's also one for baseball pitchers, and both are \$27.

At Big George's the handy \$13 Maxell headphone/cell phone adapter kit will let your giftee plug in headphones just about anywhere. There's an airline adapter, iPhone adapter, cell phone/PDA adapter, quarter-inch adapter, and dual headphone adapter. A 20-foot extension cord means they won't be tethered to the spot, either.

A & L Wine Castle carries Casino tequila in elegant bottles with delicate hand-blown glass figurines inside; once you've downed the last tequila shot the empty bottle makes a beautiful accent piece. Figurines include a rose, hummingbird, and an agave plant (the succulent used to make tequila). You'd think a hand-blown glass worm at the bottom of a bottle would be a gimme, but no. If you really like the scotch drinker on your list, a bottle of 20-year-old Macallan will run you a cool \$999.99. If you don't, an airline-sized bottle of the 12-year-old is only \$6.

There are a lot of good gifts out there this year, and now that my son doesn't believe in Santa, there are more of them to go around. Because with Santa out of the picture, I'm no longer buying for two. ■

**G**lo was made for kids who can't sleep without a night-light on. It's like three night-lights in one, and it's interactive because the lights are glowing,

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# The Zingerman's Times

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December 2011

Printed in Ann Arbor

Land of a thousand flavors



## Giant Zzang!® Bars: Not Just for the "Nice" List!

According to *Times* sources, good boys and girls are finding something extra special in their holiday stockings this year: Zzang! Original candy bars in a giant size for Christmas and Chanukah, perfect for sharing during the gift-giving season. However, folks who might be on the naughty list don't need to miss out on this great big deliciousness: these limited edition family-size Zzang!® candy bars (as well as holiday 4-packs) are available to everyone at Zingerman's Bakehouse, Delicatessen, Roadhouse and online at [www.zingermans.com](http://www.zingermans.com).

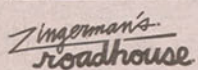
**"Chewy, crunchy, sweet, salty and highly-addictive—this luscious handmade candy bar puts the vending machine stuff to shame."**

—O Magazine, September 2011.

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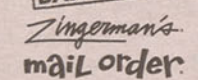
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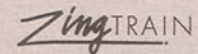
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[www.zingermans.com](http://www.zingermans.com)

## Wisconsin cheeses take adventurous eaters back in time

### Zingerman's celebrates award-winning traditionally made cheese from the Dairy State

ANN ARBOR, MI—Eye witnesses confirm *Times* readers are being transported to a time of small farms and cheeses made the old-fashioned way with a hand-picked selection of Wisconsin cheeses at Zingerman's Creamery, Delicatessen, Roadhouse and [www.zingermans.com](http://www.zingermans.com). According to insiders, these cheeses include Pleasant Ridge Reserve raw milk farmhouse cheese, Dunbarton Blue veined artisan cheddar and the very limited edition seasonal Rush Creek Reserve, as well as a 7-year cheddar from Hook's, available only at the Roadhouse for a very special cheeseburger or grilled cheese. Take a trip back to full-flavored, old-fashioned cheeses! Stop by for a taste or come to one of these special Wisconsin cheese events!

**Roadhouse Book Signing & Cheese Sampling with Ed Janus, author of *Creating Dairyland***  
December 7, 2011 • 6:30-7pm • Free!



"The dairy farmers Ed writes about illustrate the diversity of Wisconsin dairy farms, some with a few cows, some with a lot of cows and some who make their own cheese, but all share the love of cows and the land."

—Bob Cropp, professor emeritus and dairy economist, University of Wisconsin—Madison

**Celebrate Wisconsin Cheese Tasting at Zingerman's Delicatessen**

December 8, 2011 • 6:30-8:30pm

\$45 at the door, save \$5 RSVP by Dec. 6th, Call 734-663-3400  
Zingerman's Events on Fourth, 415 N. Fifth Ave in Kerrytown

With special guests Ed Janus, Zingerman's co-founder Ari Weinzwieg and cheese enthusiasts from Zingerman's Delicatessen.



## Local Dreams of Flavorful, Fuss-Free Feasting Come True

Zingerman's Deli and Roadhouse are Dealing up Delicious Take-Home Dishes this Holiday

Reports from across the area indicate *Times* readers aren't dreaming of a white Christmas—they're fantasizing about enjoying full-flavored holiday fare with family and friends, without spending the entire season in the kitchen.

Witnesses say these wishes are becoming reality with one phone call to Zingerman's Catering or Zingerman's Roadhouse. The 2011 holiday menus are now available, featuring a wide range of tasty, traditional options for entertaining friends, family gatherings, office parties, New Year's revelries and more.

Need help planning a menu? Don't know how much food to order? Have other questions or concerns? Call now—the celebration specialists at Zingerman's can help make feeding loved ones come off like a dream!

### Bring Zingerman's Home for the Holidays!

**Classic deli catering five-course feast!**

Get the special 2011 Holiday Menu at [www.zingermanscatering.com](http://www.zingermanscatering.com) or call 734.663.3400 for details.

**Roadhouse family feast out of the box!**

Check out the holiday take-out menu at [www.zingermansroadhouse.com](http://www.zingermansroadhouse.com) or call 734.663.3663.

## Rare, Limited Edition Brew Makes Appearance at Zingerman's!

Zingerman's Coffee Company's co-managing partner Allen Leibowitz recently confirmed rumors that he's brought in a small amount of rare Indian Liberica coffee in time for the holidays. Balancing sweet and acidic flavors, this special coffee is best served with family and friends.

Available ONLY at Zingerman's Coffee Company, Bakehouse, Roadhouse, Delicatessen & Mail Order. Ask for a taste!



## Zingerman's Gelato Racks Up Record Frequent Flyer Miles

The *Times* travel bureau reports handmade gelato is packing up and visiting friends and family from coast to coast in record numbers this season.

With arrangements made through Zingerman's Mail Order, special gelato six-packs are shipping straight from Zingerman's Creamery in high volumes.

What makes this frozen treat such a popular guest for the holidays? Insiders say gelato maker, Josh, mixes fresh milk from Calder Dairy—one of the last farmstead dairies in Michigan—with organic Demerara sugar and an array of other good ingredients to churn out this Italian-style ice cream with rich, intense flavors.

Made in small batches, flavors include: Vanilla, Dark Chocolate, Peppermint, Dulce de Leche, Gianduja, Raspberry Sorbet. Visit [www.zingermanscreamery.com](http://www.zingermanscreamery.com) for the scoop on Zingerman's Creamery!



## Reports of Airborne Bread Taking Off From Ann Arbor

Sighting of UFLs (Unidentified Flying Loaves) are up across the U.S. this holiday season, according to a NASA investigation. Experts confirm handmade Jewish rye, pecan raisin and Roadhouse breads, along with several other best-selling artisanal loaves from Zingerman's Bakehouse, are coming out of Ann Arbor.

According to insiders, this phenomenon is the result of local *Times* readers sending Zingerman's Monthly Bread Club to loved ones (and food lovers) around the country for the holidays from [www.zingermans.com](http://www.zingermans.com).

Visit the Bakehouse or [www.zingermansbakehouse.com](http://www.zingermansbakehouse.com) to find out more about traditional breads and goods for the holidays.



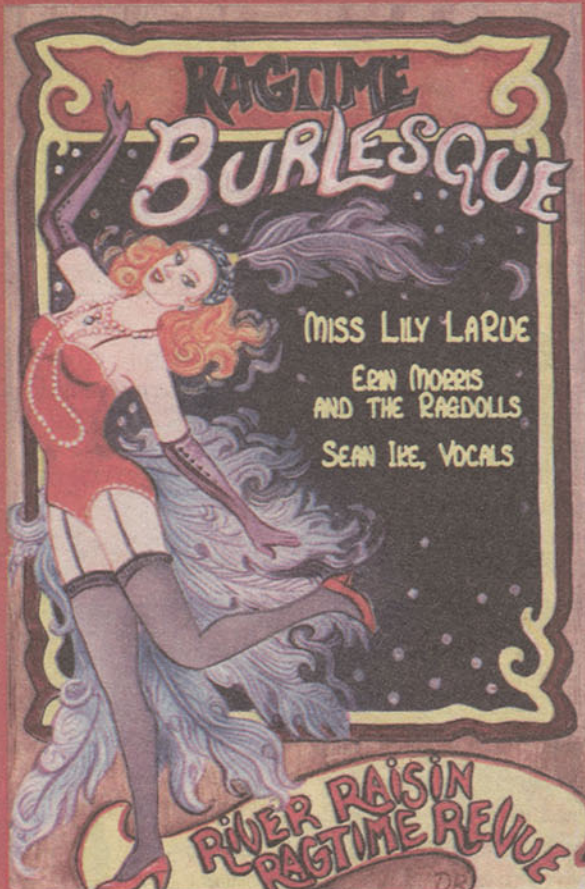
Ship Zingerman's gelato, coffee, food clubs, gift baskets, breads and more to food loving family and friends from coast to coast!

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# Restaurant Reviews

## La Marsa

### Zesty

When I was growing up, a Syrian lady who lived across the street used to bring us home-cooked food. A thoroughly American kid, I turned up my nose at the stuffed grape leaves and other strange things. Nobody has ever claimed St. Clair Shores isn't provincial.

But for almost forty years now, Middle Eastern cuisine has been my favorite. And eating at La Marsa, which opened in August in Cusi's old place on State (just as a fire gutted my former mainstay, Sheesh), I feel I have finally honored the memory of my old neighbor. Her generous spirit seems to pervade the place.

Not only is the food uniformly hearty and homey, but the care with which the dishes at La Marsa are prepared and presented is rare for a restaurant of any price—and the value here is outstanding. For \$29.99, for example, the Mixed Maza—so many appetizers the waiter had to make two trips to bring them all—was enough to satisfy four adults. Each of these small plates bespoke full attention to detail: smooth, creamy hummus, one dish plain and another loaded with chunks of juicy seared lamb; exceptional baba ghanoush with a welcome spicy kick; inspiringly spiced fried kibbeh balls; savory falafel, crisp on the outside and soft on the inside; grape leaves that tasted freshly picked, not old and oily; meat pies wrapped in soft, almost dumpling-like dough; fresh tabbouleh and fattoush salads.

It's a good sign when entrées take time to arrive: no microwaving of pre-made dishes here. The headline news at this restaurant owned by a Tunisian and an Egyptian is the fare influenced by their heritages. *Koshary*, a traditional Egyptian dish of lentils, pasta, and rice, is something new in town; its simplicity appeals, but order it at least medium spiced—otherwise it's a bit bland. Another Mediterranean combo, lamb and lima beans, makes a rich and distinctive entrée.

Throughout the menu, the chefs have a free hand with spices, yielding not only that remarkable baba but also a very zesty group of main courses, including shrimp scampi. While ordering seafood at some Middle Eastern restaurants can be an adventure, La Marsa's shrimp and salmon dishes are consistently good.

Those schooled in Middle Eastern cuisine via the now-defunct Detroit area La Shish chain (a group that must include a fair number of U-M students) will find



plenty of familiar and popular items: shish tawook (the chicken in tender large chunks, the vegetables cooked to a not-too-firm, not-too-flaccid consistency); *mjadara* (lentils simmered with onions); shish kebab; *ghallaba* (a hearty stew with many choices of proteins and seasonings); and chicken livers cooked long and low with onions. Though La Shish, Sheesh, and Palm Palace all have their own versions, this was by far the best I've had—it made me wish my diet could still regularly include liver. The "David basha"—substantial, spicy meatballs with a plate of sautéed veggies—is also terrific. Vegetarians will find plenty of dishes to graze on here, including a surprisingly pungent tomato kibbeh. The soups, whether made with lamb, vegetables, or lentils, are all outstanding. The fresh orbs of bread to use as pockets for the hummus, baba, and tabbouleh are freshly baked in what appears to be Cusi's old oven, only slightly modified.

My only quibble is that the tabbouleh, surprisingly, isn't as garlicky as I would have liked; it was heavier on the parsley and mint and slightly on the bland side. I would rank it just a tad below top-notch. Still, it's commendable that La Marsa is offering a variety of spiciness levels for the discerning palate. Even the desserts are uniquely spiced, including rice pudding and the Egyptian treat *omo ali*, which is kind of like a bread pudding.

The long, narrow space with a kitchen along one wall and the open entrance area with some tables by the street windows is unchanged since Cusi, but the walls have been adorned with Middle Eastern art. The service is as exceptional and personable as the food.

La Marsa is the new face in a town that has only slowly and belatedly warmed to a succession of Middle Eastern restaurants, but it is setting new standards for reliability and innovation. And with sandwiches

under \$5, it beats Cusi's price for a quick campus lunch.

—Michael Betzold

**La Marsa, 301 S. State. 622-0200.**  
**lamarsacuisine.com**

Daily 10 a.m.–10 p.m.

Appetizers \$4.99–\$29.99, soups \$2.99–\$3.99, salads \$3.99–\$11.99, entrées \$10.99–\$23.99, sandwiches \$4.29–\$4.99, sides \$1–\$3.99, desserts \$1.99–\$3.99.

## A Foodie Holiday

### Edible gifts around town

The season of giving and receiving has descended upon us again, with Christmas, Hanukkah, hostess gifts, and thank-you tokens all requiring rumination, choices, and purchases. There aren't many gift options that can be considered universal, but food is nearly always a welcome present. Even the hard-to-buy-for must eat, and even picky eaters appreciate a jar of jam or a chocolate bar.

Where can we find gift-worthy groceries? Last December's review of the Farmers Market listed many local purveyors of specialty foods, and additional vendors have shown up this year. Obviously we could put a bow on most anything we might pick up at Morgan and York or the Zingerman's outlets. A bottle of wine or a six-pack of artisan beer is also a self-evident choice. And don't forget that TJ Maxx and HomeGoods have shelves devoted to weird and wacky luxury food-stuffs at clearance prices, making indulgence more affordable. Here, though, I've concentrated on grocery stores and local markets, scouring the shelves for the hidden and the obvious, looking for gifts that would please serious cooks and indulgent consumers.

Invited to spend the New Year's weekend up north skiing, you couldn't bring your hostess a better gift than a side of Durham's Tracklements' excellent Highland Smoked Salmon (\$28/lb.), a small loaf of beautifully seasoned *Pâté de Campagne* (also \$28/lb.), or a slab of Farmhouse-Style Bacon (\$14/lb.). For the busy holiday season, the Kerrytown smokery reduces its offerings to better keep up with demand, but you can also select from smoked scallops, sable, and duck breast. In all cases, it's best to order ahead to assure availability.

My family would be delighted with Monahan's Seafood Market's smoked mussels (\$19.95/lb.) or the pickled herring, creamy or not (\$13.95/lb.), that far outshines any jarred variety. For the holidays Mike Monahan usually brings in caviar, so for a gift meant to impress, you could order a jar of California white sturgeon roe (\$100/oz.).

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## Restaurant Reviews

Whenever I travel abroad, I shop markets and grocery stores for local staples that typify the country's food culture—dried beans and grains, honey and condiments, chiles and spices. Michigan is a leading producer of dried beans, and if you're trying to put together a state basket, include the beautiful Carlson-Arbogast Farm beans carried by Sparrow Market—navy, yellow-eye, cranberry, black cannelloni, and others (\$2.99–\$3.49/2 lbs.).

Upstairs at Kerrytown are two shops chock full of potential gifts. Fustini's Oils and Vinegars is an entire shop devoted to these two condiments. In their tasting room you can sample an array of varietal and infused olive oils, nut oils, and straight and flavored balsamic vinegars (\$14.95–\$34.95/375 ml). Their sage-and-wild-mushroom oil would be a lovely seasonal drizzle over roasted squash or Brussels sprouts.

Down the hall, Spice Merchants sells a multitude of interesting options besides teas and coffees. For adding quick but dazzling flavor, the store stocks dozens of spice blends, rubs, and seasonings for seafood, meats, and vegetables, like pork jerk or coffee barbecue (\$2.89–\$6.29/oz.). Specialty salts are trendy now, and the store offers several regional and infused examples, from pink Hawaiian to black smoked to *Fleur de Sel* (\$1.79–\$4.29/oz.). Bakers might appreciate a sampling of sugars infused with tangerine, vanilla bean, or cocoa (\$2.29/oz.). And disks of Taza Mexican-style chocolate, plain or infused with cinnamon or chiles, wrapped in arrestingly designed paper (\$5.95), would make perfect stocking stuffers.

Serious popcorn lovers like my mother don't consider the treat a snack but a meal, so they look for fresh, flavorful kernels. The tiny store Replenish on East University carries locally grown Bur Oaks red (\$2.99/lb.), as well as the same farm's Rabble Roasters (\$2.99/7 oz.), roasted soybean nuggets in a variety of flavors. The store also carries imported lavender honey (\$3.99/7 oz.), an item I've had trouble finding elsewhere in Ann Arbor.

If your recipient is really a honey lover, though, drive over to Arbor Farms, which must carry the town's largest selection. Although I didn't see lavender honey, they do have exotic options from New Zealand (\$6.79–\$8.99/500g); organic ones from Italy (\$9.49/400g) and the Himalayas (\$8.79/12 oz.); Tupelo honey from down south (\$9.99/16 oz.); and honey crème, plain and flavored, from northern Michigan's Sleeping Bear Farm (\$4.99–\$5.99/8 oz.). Arbor Farms also has the biggest selection of chocolate bars, locally made and otherwise, and of local Al Dente pastas (\$3.59–\$4.59/10 oz.). More Michigan-made products include Food for Thought organic preserves, with intriguing blends of fruit and wine (\$5.99–\$7.49/9.5 oz.); Keweenaw Kitchen's jams (\$4.99/10 oz.); Sleeping Bear Farm's honey mustards (\$2.99/6.5 oz.); and Detroit Spice Company's handsome tins of spice seasonings—



JOHN COPLEY

steak, Greektown, jerk, and Mexicantown (\$5.99/2 oz.).

While wine and beer are obvious gift choices, artisan sodas for teetotalers or kids are less so, and the Produce Station on S. State has a wide variety. If you're still craving local, Grass Lake's McAtee Organic Farm's artesian spring water (\$3.99/750 ml) comes packaged like wine, while Ayala's herbal waters (\$6.99/4-pk.) offer surprising combinations like lemongrass-mint-vanilla or cinnamon-orange peel. The Produce Station also carries Gus sodas with jazzy fresh fruit flavors (\$4.99/ 4-pk.) and Boylan vintage soda pops (\$5.99/4-pk.), made with natural ingredients. Ginger beer must have a serious following, because the store stocks three different brands, as well as the delicious Sprecher root beer (\$6.99/4-pk.). (Most of these are available at other stores as well.) You can also pick up house-brand jams, preserves, butters, and marmalades, including F.R.O.G. (fig-raspberry-orange-ginger) jam (\$5.99/13 oz. or \$6.99/16 oz.), or imported Italian *saba* (\$24.99/250 ml), a luxurious syrup made from grape must, used in dressings and sauces or drizzled over cheese.

Ethnic markets, of course, feature many items that might interest a devotee of the cuisine, but an extravagance that would thrill most anyone is a box of the moist, melt-in-the-mouth dates that many Middle Eastern stores carry, particularly in the winter. The fruit moves quickly through these stores, so it's always fresh and completely unlike those hard nuggets in many bulk bins. The Mediterranean Market at Ellsworth and Stone School carries boxes of *medjool* dates from California (\$24.99/5 lbs. or \$49.99/11 lbs.).

Cookies are a part of many Christmas celebrations, and Decadent Delight on W. Huron bakes individual gingerbread "people" and other decorated figures (\$1.50–\$7/ea.). They also stack sugar cookies into gaily designed tins (\$39). You could astound Francophiles with a small or large *buche de Noel* (\$35/\$70) or *croque-m-bouche* (\$20/\$90), a tower of custard-filled profiteroles drizzled with caramel. Don't delay in ordering these desserts, however, because the bakery needs notice.

I find Trader Joe's on E. Stadium an odd store, but it does carry a number of gift possibilities. For non-alcohol drinkers who still might want something bubbly and elegant, pick up Villa Italia grapefruit or blood orange soda (\$2.99/L) or French Market sparkling limeade or berry lemonade (\$2.99/L). Nuts and more nuts, imaginatively flavored and plain, at great prices, line the opposite side of the aisle. Attract-



tive packaging isn't always Trader Joe's strong suit, but for that rare and exclusive club of black licorice lovers, the store offers a range of choices, including Panda's all-natural (\$2.49/7 oz.). More universally appealing candy selections include all-natural fruit jellies (\$3.99/16 oz.), chocolate orange sticks (\$3.99/18 oz.), chocolate-covered jelly sticks (\$3.99/18 oz.), and chocolate-covered toffee popcorn (\$2.99/8 oz.). Salt-and-sugar addicts may want to try chocolate-covered potato chips (\$2.99/6.5 oz.). The Trader Joe's present I would most appreciate is one of their seasoning mixes or exotic salts packaged in ready-to-use grinders (\$1.99-\$2.29).

The two Whole Foods stores, on Eisenhower and on Washtenaw, are much like Zingerman's or Morgan and York—what's there that a food lover wouldn't want to try? Some less obvious choices include winning bottles of cocktail mixers put out by Stirrings. The company uses real ingredients, so all you need to add is the prescribed alcohol to produce reasonable cocktails with reasonable ease. Options include mojito, margarita, cosmopolitan, and other exotics (\$6.99/L). They also carry Detroit-based McClure's Bloody Mary mix (\$8.99/30 oz.), which I bet is as good as their pickles (\$9.99/32 oz.). Whole Foods must stock dozens of barbecue and hot sauces and mustards, but my condiments of choice would be Busha Browne's jerk rub (\$3.69/4 oz.) or sauce (\$5.99/5 oz.), which, though terrifically hot, are so powerfully intense and delicious that they transform grilled chicken or pork. Whole Foods also carries Rick's Picks, cunningly named and spiced jars of pickled vegetables like Phat Beets and Windy City Wasabeans (\$7.99-\$9.99/15 oz.), and the Artisan Salt Co. line, captivating bottles of flavored, smoked, and regional salts (\$11.99-\$20.99/9 oz.). If cheese is the centerpiece of your gift basket, you might include a wedge of dense fig-almond cake (\$13.99/lb.) or a plum-walnut log (\$7.99/6.35 oz.).

Plum Market in Maple Village has many edible gift possibilities, including Raincoast Crisps, fruit-and-nut toasts that might complete your cheese basket. The seasonal pick would be cranberry and hazelnut (\$7.99/6 oz.) in a handsome gray-and-rose box. A cracker Plum Market may carry exclusively is the Fine Cheese Co. line from England, inventively seasoned crisps in wonderfully designed boxes that suggest the best accompanying cheese (\$4.99/5.3 oz.). The store also stocks the best variety of nuts and snack mixes from Detroit's Germack Pistachio Co., all in one- and three-pound bags, and loads a display table with pies from Achatz Handmade Pie Company (\$13.99/8 in. or \$18.99/10 in.). (Achatz has just opened its own local store; See Marketplace Changes, p. 49.)

Even ignoring the obvious, this list is just a snippet of the possibilities for edible gifts that can be bought in Ann Arbor. My notebook catalogs many more ideas, and not one on this long list—well, save the black licorice—would I not be thrilled to give or to receive.

—Lee Lawrence

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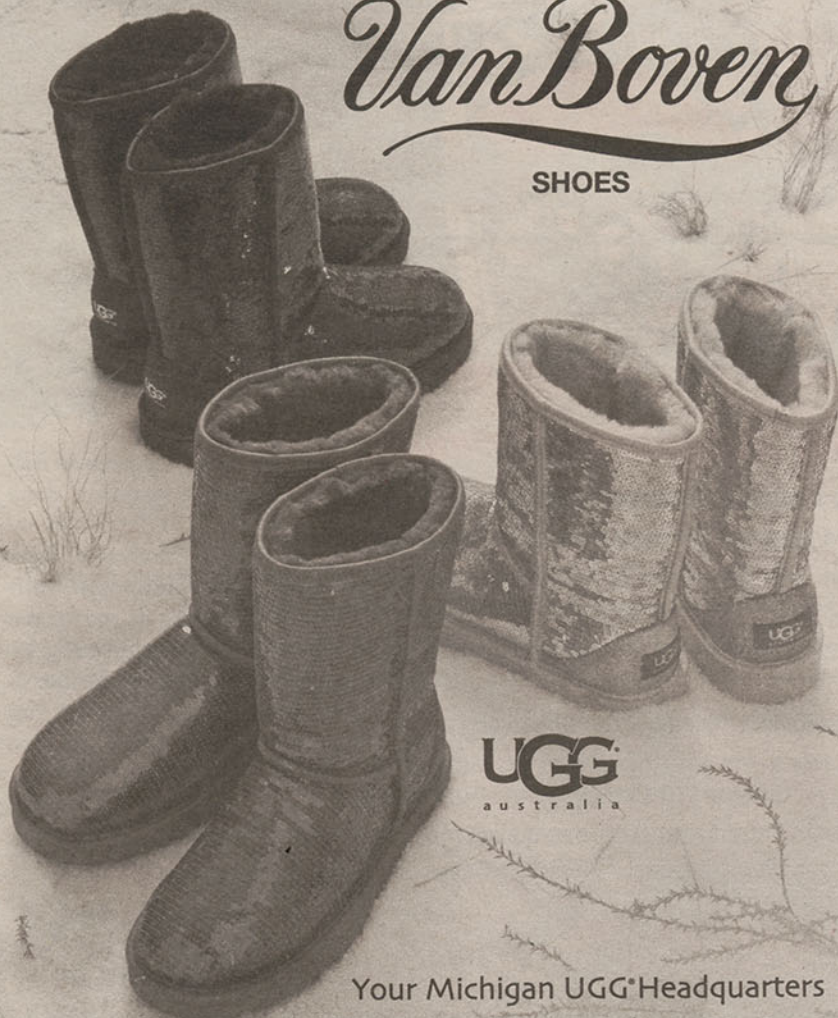
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# Marketplace Changes

by Tony McReynolds & Sally Mitani

## The Pies Have It

Wendy Achatz on the virtues of old-style baking

Ignorance is one way to keep a product pure. "I don't know what potassium sorbate is," says Wendy Achatz, owner, with her husband Dave, of the **Achatz Handmade Pie Company**. "Is it a powder? A liquid? Where would I buy it?" asks Achatz (pronounced ACK-its). Her point is that potassium sorbate, a preservative, is found in many commercial pies—but not in hers. All of her sixty flavors of pie, Achatz says, are made of pure, natural ingredients with no preservatives. Usually about forty flavors are available at any one time.

The company's signature and best-selling pie is the Michigan Four Berry pie, but Achatz has a personal favorite: "Oh man, right now that would be the cannoli pie. We use our homemade pastry cream, which is made from milk with no hormones or steroids." Though it can't be said of the cannoli pie, almost all of the Achatz fruit pies are vegan; the exceptions are a few that use a bit of butter in the filling. (The crusts are made from palm-flower oil which Achatz says has less saturated fat than palm kernel oil.) And assistant manager Julie Lawler-Hoyle promises that you can flip an Achatz pie over and the bottom crust is just as flaky as the top.

In early November, Achatz was still a few days out from opening her eighth pie store on Ann Arbor's north side, testing and tinkering with the ovens and running a staff training session. This is her first free-standing outlet in Washtenaw County, and it's also the first that will be baking pies on-site.

Achatz began making pies eighteen years ago, while raising five kids in the tiny town of Armada in Macomb County. She's not the old-fashioned girl in ponytail and crinolines featured on the company's logo. Nearly six feet tall, athletic, with thick, long, russet hair, she was wearing a flowing knee-length cardigan and—like chefs everywhere—Dansko clogs.

Achatz pies have been sold for years in Ann Arbor's finer grocery stores: the Jonna family, owner of the Plum Markets and before that, the Merchant of Vino, was one of her earliest wholesale customers. "I brought a pie in to Ed Jonna at Merchant of Vino, with a little Avery label on the box that I'd printed on my dot matrix printer. I was so nervous. Eddie was so awesome."

Despite the fact that Achatz has no idea what potassium sorbate is, and has never been to cooking school, her family is big in the food industry. Her mother-in-law, Irene Achatz, started Irene's Catering (in Adair) in 1963, a business now run by son Steve. Irene's salad dressing and Steve's soups will be sold at the pie store. The most famous member of the family is cousin Grant Achatz, whose Chicago restaurant, Alinea, was named number one

in the country by *Gourmet* magazine in 2008.

Achatz Pies isn't that famous, but it is in a growth spurt: Achatz says business has grown by 49 percent in the last year. She recently navigated the expensive and labor-intensive process of obtaining Department of Agriculture certification, allowing her to expand into meat pies. She recouped some of that expense by taking on a contract to produce 350,000 potpies for another company at the end of last year, though she says they had to scramble to do it. The last quarter of the year "is like Super Bowl for us anyway. We can barely keep up with our own orders."

Baking pies in-store is another first.

"We want to see if we can do it here. It will be the flagship store to offer partnerships or franchises to other people." The small shop, next to the Traver Village Kroger, is decorated with warm, homey touches, like chandeliers and a salvaged church pew. "We're trying to bring in a little taste of the country, and what it's like in our original Armada store." The Armada store sits on the edge of the Achatzes' forty-acre apple orchard.

Once it's up and running, Achatz expects to spend little time at the Ann Arbor store. Manager Tim Turner and assistant manager Julie Lawler-Hoyle will be much more familiar faces. But like all Achatz stores, this one will close at sunset on Friday and remain closed all day Saturday. "I'm a Seventh Day Adventist, so we keep the seventh-day Sabbath," Achatz explains.

*Achatz Handmade Pie Company, 2643 Plymouth Rd. (Traver Village). 369-2460. Sun. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-sunset. achatzpies.com*

## Hunters' Heaven

Guns and more on the south side

The last tenant sold linens & things and the new tenant sells guns & things. **Dick's Sporting Goods** opened in the former Linens & Things space on Lohr



Pie maker Wendy Achatz isn't as famous as her cousin, Chicago chef Grant Achatz. But with sales up 49 percent this year, she's gaining on him.

Road in mid-October. The company had hoped to be open by September but had to jump one last hurdle first—because it wanted to sell guns, it had to wait for permission from the Pittsfield Township planning commission.

Founded in 1948 by eighteen-year-old Dick Stack as a modest bait-and-tackle shop financed with a \$300 loan from his grandmother, Dick's Sporting Goods is the biggest sporting goods chain in the country with 467 stores nationwide. Though it sells plenty of guns and other hunting supplies, there's nothing rustic about the Ann Arbor store—with clothing and footwear, team equipment and exercise gear, it's a glossy palace of physical activity.

If Dick's had opened last year, customers could have just crossed Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. to comparison-shop shotguns: **MC Sports** was then located in Oak Valley Center. But MC has moved into Briarwood, to the spot that long housed the center's movie theaters. Ed Rix, the company's vice president of marketing, says the seventy-eight-store, Grand Rapids-based chain wanted to add a new department, and needed more space, traffic, and visibility: "Our go-forward strategy is to add hunting and fishing [gear] to all our new locations," says Rix. "It's doing extremely well for us."

*Dick's Sporting Goods, 3120 Lohr Rd. (Waters Place), 733-6095. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Sun. 10 a.m.-7 p.m. dickssportinggoods.com*

*MC Sports, Briarwood Mall, 996-0404. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. mcsports.com*

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## Marketplace Changes



Dick's has turned the long-vacant Linens & Things spot in Waters Place into a glossy palace of outdoor activity.

## A Multicultural Bakery on Washtenaw

### Pepperoni rolls meet Yemeni samosas at Roma

It's perhaps not surprising that a place called the **Roma Bakery** bills itself as "home of the pepperoni roll" and has a glass case full of cannoli, cheesecake, and the tiny cookies that Italians love so much with their espresso. But less predictably, the Roma Bakery's outdoor sign is also printed in Arabic. On any given day, Roma is full of women in hijab, standing around waiting for their baked-to-order manoushi and za'atar to come out of the oven. And that's just the beginning of the cheerful ethnic scramble at Roma.

Owner Sam Nemer is Lebanese, though he has never lived there. Born in Sierra Leone, West Africa, to immigrant Lebanese textile merchants, he's fluent in Arabic, Spanish, English, and Sierra Leone's Krio

(a mix of English and tribal languages). About a dozen years ago, he bought the Roma Bakery, which had operated since 1949 in Dearborn. "When we acquired it, we kept the name because it was a legend. We changed the format a little because the population had changed. It used to be an Italian neighborhood, but the Italians had moved to Windsor, St. Clair Shores, Novi, Ann Arbor."

Nemer, fifty-six, came to the U.S. when he was eighteen and spent the first half of his career working for PepsiCo in Florida and North Carolina. He learned the bakery business on the job, keeping the pizza rolls and adding Middle Eastern specialties the neighborhood demanded. Recently he completed an associate's degree in baking at Arts International in Novi.

Strolling over to the pastry case, he shows off what he learned there: "I make all my own shells for the cannolis, éclairs, and mini puffs. I make two different fillings for my cannolis—Bavarian cream and chocolate chip butter cream." He also makes cheesecakes, pies, cookies, Turkish delights—"Butter and semolina, and a little bit of sweetness. I put walnuts in them."—and the slightly sweet Iraqi



Sam Nemer (with Yemeni samosas) adapted the original Roma Bakery to Dearborn's changing demographics. Now he's adapting again to Ann Arbor.

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bread/cookies he calls "buxoms." Moving over to the savory side of the bakery, today he has pizza rolls stuffed with pepperoni and sausage, bite-sized spinach pies, meat squares, and larger broccoli and cheese pies on display. He points to a tray of samosas. They're larger and flatter than the customary fist-sized pouches. "Actually, they're Yemeni samosas," he explains. "A Yemeni customer described to us how to make them. We created this recipe, and we liked it."

He interrupts the interview to wait on a Syrian woman. Her English is flawless, but it is her first time in the shop, and she is an exacting customer; English isn't the right language for the questions she has. A lengthy, technical interrogation in Arabic ensues. Nemer quickly assembles her order and throws it under the roaring jets of the "hearth oven," as he calls it, standard equipment in Middle Eastern bakeries and restaurants. A few minutes later, she leaves with ten 9" pies, called *manoushi*, —six cheese and four topped with za'atar (a mix of thyme and other spices)—and a dozen and a half mini-pies filled with meat, spinach, or feta, all baked to order.

But how did she know that she could request that her manoushi or za'atar be baked while she waited? Nemer was startled by that question; it revealed a cultural divide. Take note, Anglos: that's what the hearth oven is for, and that's why there are no thyme or cheese pies on display. The powerful hearth oven, which can cook a sixteen-inch pizza in three or four minutes, is used as needed. When everyone is tuned in to the on-demand system, there's little waste at the end of the day (any leftovers are donated to a group of needy families in Dearborn).

Nemer's Roma Bakery in Dearborn continues to operate. His wife and nephew are running it. The Ann Arbor location, on Washtenaw west of Golfside, opened in mid-October, and he's welcoming new customers and new ethnicities every day, tailoring the market to what Ann Arbor and Ypsi like.

Roma Bakery, 4837 Washtenaw. 879-0100. Mon.-Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## Briefly noted

Michelle Toal's business almost went up in smoke last summer. "The restaurant next door to us had a grease fire," she says. "It got out of control, and it sent their restaurant up in flames, and we ended up filling up with nice, thick, black smoke." The restaurant was Sheesh on North Main, and her business is **Edible Arrangements**, a fresh fruit bouquet franchise. Sheesh never reopened (the owner was unavailable for comment), but things worked out pretty well for Toal, whose lease was up at the end of the month anyway.

"I was looking to get out of downtown as it was," she laughs. "It was kind of good timing, actually." She'd been scouting for a new location with on-site parking for customers, employees, and her two delivery vans, which kept getting blocked in by other vehicles in the alley behind the store,

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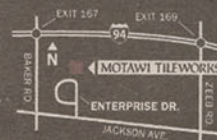
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## Marketplace Changes

sometimes for hours. "I couldn't get out to start my day's deliveries," she says, which is a pretty big problem when deliveries are the bulk of your business.

She found a perfect space with plenty of parking on Washtenaw across from Arborland and expected to be operating out of there by mid-November. And despite being smoked out of her downtown location she never had to shut down, because she'd opened a second location in Lansing a year ago: "We're making all of our orders out of our Lansing store and delivering throughout Ann Arbor," she says. "It's an hour away, we have to pay a lot of money in gas, it's been a huge headache. But we've managed to survive."

**Edible Arrangements**, 3386 Washtenaw, 929-0200, Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-7 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. [ediblearrangements.com](http://ediblearrangements.com)

•••••

Vipul Patel has a degree in computer science, but that was always his backup plan. Born with the soul of an entrepreneur, Patel knew he wanted to own his own business but wanted the safety net of a computer background "because you can always use that knowledge, whatever the field." It's unclear whether that includes the field of filling a Slurpee dispenser, but Patel now owns four businesses, the most recent of which is his—and Ann Arbor's—second **7-Eleven**, which opened in the former Austin & Warburton space on South Main in September.

Patel, thirty-two, started looking around for franchise opportunities in 2005. He researched a number of them, including Dunkin' Donuts and Subway, and finally lit upon 7-Eleven, opening his first location in Westland in 2005. Soon he was doing well enough to start buying other businesses: first, a gas station in Livonia, and then, three years ago, the Blue Front party store at State and Packard.

He says he'd always wanted to open a second 7-Eleven, and when the opportunity came along he jumped at the chance. He lucked into a cool-looking space, a onetime Kroger store with curved, Art Deco lines.

Patel lives in Canton and divides his time among his four businesses, but if he has his way he'll be spending even more of it in Ann Arbor. He wants to open more 7-Elevens, and he wants to open his next one here.

**7-Eleven**, 704 S. Main, 913-1061. Daily 24 hours. [7-eleven.com](http://7-eleven.com)

•••••

EMU grad Bruce T. Halle opened his very first **Discount Tire** store on West Stadium in 1960. Fifty-one years and 800 stores later, Halle (now working out of corporate headquarters in Scottsdale, Arizona) personally made the decision to abandon his original location in favor of roomier digs out Jackson just east of Zeeb. The new store opened in mid-October with double the square footage and qua-

druple the parking, something sure to be appreciated by anyone who's ever tried to park in the cramped side lot between the old building and Uncle Ed's Oil Shoppe.

Tim Ehinger, vice president of Discount Tire's Michigan region, says Halle, eighty-one, still makes the final decision on all new properties, and "everybody kind of expected him to be very nostalgic about" his original location. But if Halle felt sentimental, he kept it to himself. Ehinger figures he may regard stores the way parents think of their kids: "We don't love one any better than the other."

**Discount Tire**, 5240 Jackson, 769-2158. Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m.-6 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Sun. [discounttire.com](http://discounttire.com)

•••••

Cesar Hervert opened **Tmaz Taqueria** in the former **Zamaan Café and Bakery** space on Packard near Platt in late September. Not that you'd have noticed—as of mid-November he still didn't have a sign out front. "The first day I was open, I had one customer," he says, shaking his head. Lack of a sign wasn't his only visibility problem. From the outside you can barely tell it's a restaurant. The space is tiny, and the first third looks like an office because that's what it is: Hervert wasn't sure how successful his restaurant would be, so he invited a couple of friends to share the space, splitting the rent, and they run a money transfer business out of the front. He admits it's an unusual arrangement but says you have to come up with inventive ways of doing things in a bad economy.

Hervert, thirty-five, came to the States from his native Mexico ten years ago. Back home in Veracruz he was a teacher, not a restaurateur. "I miss working with kids," he says, but he never considered going back to teaching once he got stateside. "No, I found my career. I like what I do here." His wife, Anna, helps out with the cooking when she's not busy taking care of their three kids.

He's worked at a few local restaurants but spent most of the last ten years at the Arbor Brewing Company, working his way up from dishwasher to line cook to kitchen manager, learning how to run a restaurant along the way. The name Tmaz is his abbreviation of the word *temazcal*, a traditional Mexican sweat lodge used to purify the body, heal the sick, and help women give birth. Hervert loves the spiritual aspect and wanted to bring that connotation to his restaurant. "I liked the way it touched me," he says.

All the food is homemade, and he tries to use organic ingredients whenever possible. He calls the place a taqueria, which in Mexico means a simple taco stand, and, true to the name, tacos make up most of the menu. He offers ten different varieties, including *asada* (grilled steak), *al pastor* (marinated pork), and chorizo (Mexican sausage). They're \$1.50 each and come with two corn tortillas, fresh cilantro, onions, and lime, with salsa on the side. Eventually Hervert hopes to have a total of thirty-two types of tacos—one for each of Mexico's thirty-two states.



Last month Ann Arbor lost one of its smallest resale shops, Woman in the Shoe (see Closings), but nearby an even smaller and more discriminating resale shop opened. **Modest Intentions** is part of the newly formed Muslim Social Services, a nonprofit run by Elizabeth Lindsey. Modest Intentions will be staffed by volunteers like Kimi Honzaki, who will also be teaching a women-only yoga class there ("so we can uncover. It's hard to do yoga in hijab").

"Modest" certainly could describe the size (a half dozen racks and a few tables and shelves), or the hours (Sunday afternoons), but it best describes the clothing itself. "Especially for women who are just converting to Islam, it's horrendously expensive to buy a whole new wardrobe," says Lindsey, who knows. She converted in 2000. ("I was a Catholic, and I had trouble with the idea of original sin. I began reading about other faiths.")

Lindsey explains: "The purpose behind hijab—which means 'to cover' or 'to conceal'—is that it's important that people remember our deeds, our actions, and our brains. We do not want to be judged on the attractiveness of our bodies. Muslims are the original feminists."

"Hijab" is open to interpretation, she says, but it generally means long, loose-fitting clothing, and that's what's for sale at Modest Intentions. Lindsey herself was wearing a long flowered skirt and a knee-length black jacket, and her head was swathed in a white scarf.

While a few of the racks of clothing are long-sleeved blouses and blazers that might be found in any thrift shop, most of the clothing is distinctly exotic: long dresses and skirts, *salwar kameez*, a few niqabs, and an entire wall of head scarves, sorted by color.

Lindsey emphasizes that anyone is welcome to shop here. "Women of all faiths might be looking for more modest clothing."

**Modest Intentions**, 3090 Platt Rd. 369-2783. Sun. noon-4 p.m. (or by appointment). [www.muslimsocialservices.com](http://www.muslimsocialservices.com)

Lately, sandwich chains like Quiznos and Subway have been on a roll, so to speak, in Ann Arbor. The former has struck a deal for concessions inside Meijer, and the latter is the fastest growing fast-food franchise in the country.

But all is not perfect in sandwich land. A **Quiznos** closed in October on West Stadium, at the difficult-to-navigate ganglion where it meets Jackson and Maple. Franchisee Ashok Vashi couldn't be reached (his home phone number was disconnected), but he hinted a few years ago that things were not going well. Interviewed in May of 2009 about the closing of Portofino Coffee next door, he said that his rent was around \$2,500 a month and business was down 30 to 40 percent from the previous year. (Another tenant in the building, who

asked not to be named, said, "The rent's not the problem. We all pay the same rent.")

A long-awaited **Subway** at the new Platt Road Center, near Packard, appears to be finally readying itself for business. Furniture has been delivered and other delivery notices were posted to the door. At press time, franchise owner Mike Heffner hadn't returned phone calls.

## Closings

"The competition was so bad. The minute the Salvation Army moved in, I knew it was over," says Connie Snow, owner of one of the oldest thrift stores in Ann Arbor, the **Woman in the Shoe**, which closed this fall. "Big box stores—they happen in resale too. It's not just hardware stores."

Snow wasn't involved in the store's founding; back then she was selling real estate, and the store was owned by Shirley Haulotte. In the mid-1980s, Haulotte sold the store to Snow's sister Sally, who had been working there, and Snow bought it a few years later.

Beginning about ten years ago, Ann Arbor saw a sudden florescence of resale shops, and a lot of them ended up on South Industrial. "There was no plan. It was cheap real estate, or relatively cheap, anyway," says Snow. "I was the only one for so long, then there was the Klothes Kloset, the ReUse Center, PTO Thrift Shop, Top Drawer, Salvation Army. I tried and I tried and I tried, and all I got were drop-offs. No one would buy anything. I finally realized I was spending my own money to keep the store open."

The last few years have been heart-wrenching for Snow. In addition to losing the store, she was the primary caregiver for both of her parents. Her father died in 2010 of Alzheimer's, and her mother died this year of heart disease.

Snow is sixty-one, looking for a job, and afraid she's going to lose her house. "I'm finding I'm not qualified for much. My computer skills are lacking. I had my own way of doing things. I loved my store. Every day, I'd get up in the morning and I'd think, 'I can't wait to go to work.' My customers were like my family. I had customers who bought for their babies, and were coming in to buy for their grandchildren."

Andrea Graef's tone was flat and emphatic in a recent phone interview about the closing of **This & That**, her candy store on Liberty near State, in late October: "The basic line is, the store closed because of the economy, because of competition, because of Borders closing, because of the increased panhandling, which has made the business community down there a poor one to be in right now." She paused and then repeated before ringing off: "The economy is the number-one reason."

Got a retail or restaurant change? Email [sallymitani@gmail.com](mailto:sallymitani@gmail.com) or [tonymcreynolds@tds.net](mailto:tonymcreynolds@tds.net), or leave voice-mail at 769-3175 x309.

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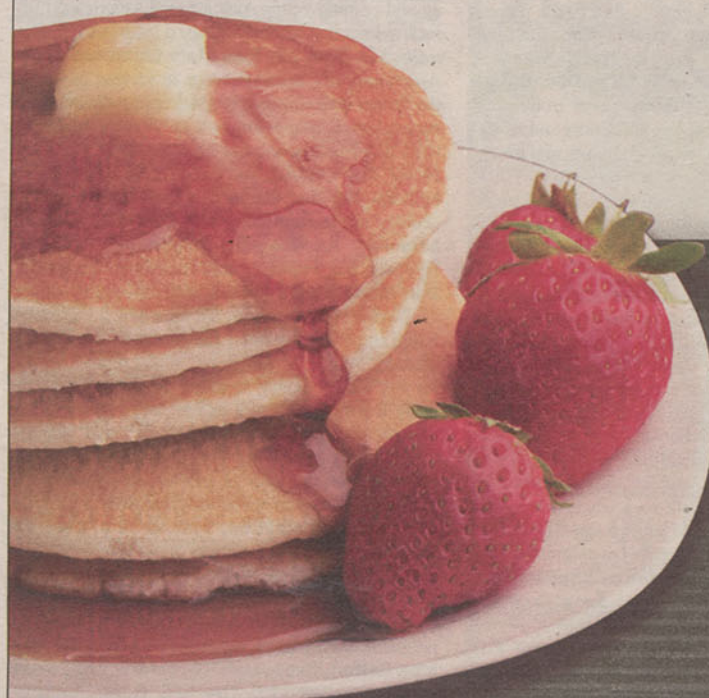
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# Music at Nightspots

by John Hinchey

Listings are based on information available at press time. Up-to-date schedules are posted at [arborweb.com](http://arborweb.com), but it may be advisable to call ahead. Times are noted only if they differ from the default showtimes listed in the description of each club.

## The Ark

316 S. Main

761-1451

Michigan's leading showcase for American and international performers of all forms of traditional music. Shows almost every night at 8 p.m., Mon-Sat., & 7:30 p.m., Sun. Unless otherwise noted, tickets are sold in advance at Herb David Guitar Studio and the Michigan Union Ticket Office ([mutotix.com](http://mutotix.com)), and at the door. **Dec. 1: Judy Collins.** Veteran pop-folk chanteuse with a glorious silvery voice who has remained a star for some 5 decades because of her intelligent musicianship and her impeccable taste in material, which in her case encompasses folk, rock, and musical theater. \$49.50. 7 p.m. (sold out) & 9:30 p.m. **Dec. 2: April Verch Band.** Acoustic trio led by this Canadian fiddle virtuoso whose music blends the Anglo, French, and Celtic fiddling and step-dancing traditions of her native northeastern Ontario with everything from Appalachian music and western swing to Hot Club-style jazz, funk, and samba. Her new CD, *That's How We Run*, explores Southern mountain traditions. \$15. **Dec. 3: Shawn Colvin.** A highly regarded South Dakota-born singer-songwriter who has been compared to Joni Mitchell and Tracy Chapman, Colvin is known for her storytelling flair, pop smarts, and arresting blend of emotional intensity and sardonic wit. Opening act is **Rose Cousins**, a pop-folk singer-songwriter from the Canadian Maritimes. \$40. **Dec. 4: "Bill Kirchen Honky Tonk Holiday Show."** Ann Arbor native (and former Commander Cody guitarist) Kirchen leads his Washington, D.C., ensemble that plays a versatile mix of hard-core honky-tonk, rockabilly, acoustic swing, and countrypolitan balladry. They are joined tonight by local guitar wizard **George Bedard**. ("People in Ann Arbor might think all towns have a George Bedard," Kirchen once told WCBN DJ Dan Moray. "They don't.") \$20. **Dec. 5: Riders in the Sky.** This innovative, often comical Nashville-based quartet of ace musicians has revitalized the genre of the cowboy song. Inspired by the 1930s group the Sons of the Pioneers, the quartet includes 2 former Ann Arborites, Fred LaBour and onetime Herb David staffer Doug Green. They specialize in elaborate harmonizations of cowboy folk songs, western ballads, and sentimental Hollywood versions of the real thing—one of their CDs is a collection of Gene Autry tunes. Their repertoire also includes old-time fiddle pieces, some jazz numbers, virtuoso yodels, comic send-ups of western drama, and rope tricks. Tonight's show is "Christmas the Cowboy Way." \$25. **Dec. 6: Lee Murdock.** Murdock is a Great Lakes troubadour who writes songs about the lives of sailors and fishermen, lighthouse keepers, ghosts, outlaws, and everyday heroes. His music blends ragtime, Irish, blues, and folk styles, and he accompanies himself on 6- and 12-string guitars. Tonight he performs his "Christmas Ship Concert," a family concert commemorating a late 19th-century tradition. At the end of the lumber season, Great Lakes captains would carry a final cargo heralding the holiday season with decks piled high with fresh-cut evergreen trees and garlands. \$15. **Dec. 7: Open Stage.** All acoustic performers invited. Fifteen acts are selected randomly from those who sign up to perform 8 minutes (or 2 songs) each. The most talented and popular Open Stage performers are offered their own evenings at the Ark. \$3 (members & students, \$2). **Dec. 8: Melissa Ferrick.** Lesbian folk-rock singer-songwriter from Boston known for her quirky sense of humor, nuanced emotional range, intense but enigmatic stage presence, and dexterous guitar work. "She appeared at times to be channeling Bruce Springsteen and Rickie Lee Jones simultaneously," said a *Boston Globe* critic in a review of one of her concerts. \$20. **Dec. 9: Commander Cody Band.** This American roots music quartet led by singer-pianist George Frayne is the latest incarnation of Commander Cody & the Lost Planet Airmen, the pioneering late-60s/early-70s Ann Arbor-based roots-music ensemble that raided country, rockabilly, western swing, and boogie-woogie idioms and defiantly hitched them to counterculture attitudes. The current lineup includes guitarist Mark Emerick, pedal steel guitarist Chris Olsen, bassist Randy Bramwell, and drummer Steve Barbuto. Opening act is **John Sinclair & Beatnik Youth**, an ensemble led by local counterculture leg-

## Classical Revolution "Chamber Jam"

Getting down with the classics

The players of Classical Revolution are not your mom and dad's classical musicians. Instead of a bunch of old folks in formal wear in rapt communion with the infinite, it's a bunch of young folks in street clothes getting down with the music.

Down as in low. When I saw Classical Revolution this past March at Silvio's Organic Pizza on North University, there were two violinists, two cellists, a bass player—Richard Robinson of the DSO, no less—and seven, count 'em, seven violists, including renowned local veteran John Madison and CR founder Charith Premawardhana. Though the violists only played two or three at a time, the ensemble was still distinctly bottom-heavy—and all the funkier for it.

They opened their first set with a rocking *Ruslan and Ludmila* overture by Glinka. If the ensemble was a bit scrappy at times, well, *Ruslan* is one mother of a virtuoso overture. But the more important thing is that Glinka's soaring themes and propulsive rhythms came across with tremendous energy in the young musicians' hands—and their enthusiasm was infectious.

That's more or less the point. From the time it was founded in 2006 at the Revolution Cafe in the Mission District of San Francisco, the mission of Classical Revolution has been to "present concerts and non-concerts involving traditional and non-traditional approaches," as their press release says. What that means in practice is an ad hoc band taking

on pieces they may or not have played before in styles they may or may not have ever tried before—and having a blast doing it.

Some pieces in the first set were transcriptions, like the opening movement of Beethoven's *Pathétique* piano sonata scored as a stark and angular string septet and Rachmaninoff's *Prelude Op. 23, No. 6*, as a swinging, swaying Russian dance. And some were originals like Robinson's *Pork 'n' Beans*, a collection of tunes and riffs set to funk syn-copations with transitions so tricky the ensemble had to stop once.

But that was OK. Everybody on stage and off laughed—and then the music started

## classical music



J. ADRIAN WYLLIE

again. In some ways, Classical Revolution is just a gussied-up sight reading class, and slippups are bound to occur. But in more significant ways, CR is young musicians having fun—and sharing their fun with the audience.

That audience started out as half a dozen people, but by the end of the first set Silvio's was nearly full. And not just of listeners: more musicians came too—including two more violists.

Musicians are always welcome to join the Classical Revolution "Chamber Jam," which returns to Silvio's Organic Pizza on Monday, December 5.

—James Leonard

end Sinclair that presents musical settings of Sinclair's jazz- and blues-steeped poems. Tonight's show is presented by the Ann Arbor District Library in conjunction with today's launch of its Freeing John Sinclair website. Free. **Dec. 10: Erin Zindle & Friends Holiday Show.** Zindle, the frontwoman of the classy local progressive country-rock band The Ragbirds, who has just released her debut solo CD, *Scenes from the Fragile, Agile Avian World*, is joined by assorted local musicians for a program of new and old holiday music. \$15. **Dec. 11: The Wheeler Brothers.** See review, p. 73. Ann Arbor debut of this up-and-coming young Austin-based Americana folk-rock quintet that recently released its debut CD, *Portraits*. \$15. **Dec. 12: Raul Malo Christmas Show.** An evening of Christmas songs in various genres by the former lead singer of the Mavericks, who sings in an exuberant, impossibly clean vibrato. Malo has been described as a cross between early Elvis and classic Roy Orbison, and his eclectic repertoire, in both English and Spanish, ranges from rock and country to big-band jazz. \$40. **Dec. 13: "Decem-bersongs: An Acoustic Celebration."** Two Ark favorites, San Francisco folk-rock singer-songwriter **Dan Navarro** and Hoboken-bred alt-country singer-songwriter **Amy Speace**, are joined by 2 Nashville-based singer-songwriters, **Jon Vezner** (whose songs include "Where've You Been" and several other hits for his wife, country superstar Kathy Mattea) and **Sally Barris**, who's written hits for the likes of Lee Ann Womack ("Some Things I Know") and John Michael Montgomery ("My Christmas Wish"). The program includes originals as well as contemporary and traditional songs of the holiday season. \$20. **Dec. 14: Delbert McClinton.** Sold out. \$50. **Dec. 15: Emerson Hart.** The frontman of the veteran alternative rock band Tonic, this New Jersey-bred singer-songwriter established his solo career in 2007 with *Cigarettes & Gasoline*, a collection of well-crafted, poignant, introspective songs. \$22.50. **Dec. 16: Graham Colton.** Oklahoma City pop-rock singer-songwriter. \$15. **Dec. 17: The RFD Boys.** Authentic bluegrass by these longtime local favorites who have appeared in numerous festivals and on the cover of *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine. Their shows blend top-notch musicianship with funny between-songs dialogue. They have several recordings, including *Live and Unrehearsed*, a 1994 Ark performance. \$11 at the door only. **Dec. 18: "10th Annual Concert for Peace."** Several local folk, rock, and roots bands and singer-songwriters perform their own and others' antiwar and peace songs. Performers include singer-

songwriters **Chris Buhalls**, **Dave Boutette**, **Dick Siegel**, **Jay Stielstra**, **Jim Roll**, **Jo Serrapere**, **Annie and Rod Capps**, **Misty Lyn**, **Kevin Meisel**, and **Brian Lillie**, along with boogie-woogie pianist **Mr. B**, the versatile rock 'n' roll band **FUBAR**, the country-folk duo **Sophia Hanifi & Dave Keeney**, the alt-country band **Comdaddy**, the roots-music country trio **Delta 88**, the Hot Club-style gypsy jazz group **Royal Garden Trio**, the father-daughter folk duo **San and Emily Slomovits**, and storyteller **LaRon Williams**. Proceeds benefit the Ark. \$15. 7 p.m. **Dec. 29 & 30: Crossroads Celli.** Two evenings of Celtic music, song, and dance featuring several international and Detroit-area performers TBA. \$15. **Dec. 31: Fred Eaglesmith.** This acclaimed Canadian country-rock singer-songwriter is known for brilliantly realized tales of rural and small-town life that are alternately dark, tender, terrifying, and savagely hilarious and are brought to life by canny rhythmic and melodic settings that draw freely on a variety of idioms from folk and bluegrass to rockabilly to dissonant avant-rock. His latest CD *Cha Cha Cha* adds a strong dose of moody Tom Waits-style late-night balladry. \$27.50.

## The B-Side

310 E. Washington

214-9995

This all-ages venue in the Neutral Zone teen center (with a side alley entrance off Fifth Ave.) features a mix of touring, local, and teen bands, usually Sat., 7-11 p.m. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 3:** Indie rock bands TBA. **Dec. 9: "Dedicated to Make a Change Benefit."** A benefit for this nonprofit that provides local teens with opportunities to do service work. With the Milan alternative metal band **Peace Be Still**, the Ypsilanti ska punk band **Labradore Blaque**, and the Saline math-rock emo band **Bad Television**. **Dec. 17: "Hip-Hop Misfits."** With 3 local teen hip-hop acts, the socially conscious hip-hop MC **The Delegate**, the hip-hop ensemble **K.O.K.**, and the underground hip-hop MC **Chirish**.

## The Black Pearl

302 S. Main

222-0400

This seafood and martini bar features live music Tues. & Wed., 7-10 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Tues.: Laith Al-Saadi.** Soulful acoustic rock and blues covers and originals by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 7: Jody Raffoul.** Canadian pop-rock

singer-songwriter who's been described as a hybrid of Bono and Bruce Springsteen. He is joined by backup vocalist and guitarist **Wes Buckley**. **Dec. 14: Hailey Hewitt Clark.** Classically trained soprano from Cary (NC) whose songs reflect traditional folk, blues, country, bluegrass, and gospel influences. **Dec. 21: Beth Stalker & Jim Rawlings.** An eclectic mix of styles, from blues, R&B, and jazz to rock and country, by the Detroit Music Award-winning duo of singer-songwriter Stalker and songwriter-guitarist Rawlings. **Dec. 28: Laith Al-Saadi.** See above.

## The Blind Pig

208 S. First St.

996-8555

This local music club features live music 5 nights a week, with a varied assortment of local and out-of-town rock 'n' roll, blues, reggae, and dance bands, 10:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. (unless otherwise noted). Also, occasional early shows, usually 7-10 p.m. Karaoke on Mon.; closed most Sun. If there's an opening act, the headliner usually goes on stage between 11:30 p.m. and midnight. Cover (except "Showcase Night"), dancing. If advance tickets are sold, they are available at the 8-Ball Saloon (below the club) and at [etix.com](http://etix.com). **Every Tues.: "Showcase Night."** With 4 different young local bands each week TBA. **Dec. 1: Seven Chakras.** Local hip-hop ensemble that's backed by the band **The Plushlovely Players**. Opening acts are area hip-hop MCs **Bedroxx**, **Duke Newcomb**, **Mogi Grumbles**, **Abomb**, and **Dick Jones**. **Dec. 2: Ann Arbor Soul Club.** Classic soul music by the local DJ duo of Brad Hales and Robert Wells. **Dec. 3: The Oygams!** EMU student klezmer ensemble whose influences range from the Cracow Klezmer Band and Goran Bregovic to Gogol Bordello and the Klezmatics. Opening act is **Phil Forsyth Co.**, an Ypsilanti rock band. **Dec. 7: TBA.** **Dec. 8: Donna the Buffalo.** Earthy yet yearningly spiritual folk-rock by this sextet from upstate New York whose music mixes Band-style rock 'n' roll with everything from Appalachian fiddle music and psychedelic rock to zydeco and reggae. Their fans include R.E.M.'s Michael Stipe and 10,000 Maniacs' Steve Gustafson, who called them "the best band in the world." Advance tickets: \$17 (\$20 at the door). **Dec. 9: Mux Mool.** Brooklyn (NY) electro hip-hop musician. Opening acts are local electronica and hip-hop DJs **Charles Trees**, **K@Dog**, **Ill.So.Naj**, and **Mogi Grumbles**. Advance tickets: \$10 (\$13 at the



door). **Dec. 10: Ticked Fancy Burlesque Co.** Popular local postpunk burlesque troupe. Opening acts TBA. **Dec. 11: Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.** All ages admitted. Critically acclaimed Seattle hip-hop ensemble whose music incorporates both Irish and Western swing rhythms. Opening acts are **Champagne Champagne**, a Seattle experimental hip-hop MC, and **Xperience**, an Olympia (WA) trip-hop musician. Advance tickets: \$12 (\$14 at the door). 8 p.m.-midnight. **Dec. 14: Hampshire.** Local rock band. Opening act is **Ontario**, also a local rock band. **Dec. 15: Duane.** Bowiesque glam-rock singer-songwriter from Detroit. Opening act is **Charlie Slick**, a local Gary Numan-inspired electro-pop singer-songwriter. **Dec. 16: Tree Hut Kings.** Lansing pop-rock dance band. Opening act TBA. **Dec. 17: "Alternative Nation."** Several local bands perform the music of one of their favorite alternative rock bands, including **Devil Elvis** as Social Distortion, **Ghost Family Collective** as Jesus Lizard, **Little Furry Things** as Dinosaur Jr., **The Bobby Electric** as Pavement, **Mumble** as The Pixies, **Slim Piken & the Big Appetite** as electric Beck and both **Eric Patrick Kelly** and **Jeff Elbel** as acoustic Beck. **Dec. 21: TBA.** **Dec. 22: Indigo Sun.** Chicago psychedelic funktronica quartet. Opening acts are **Joe Hertler & the Rainbow Seekers**, a Lansing pop-funk and soul quartet led by singer-songwriter Hertler, and **The Deep End**, a Brighton rock quartet. **Dec. 23: "Ugly Sweater Xmas Party."** With live music by **Rad Rad Red**, a hybrid of the self-styled "disco bebop" band the Macpodz and the local funk-rock electro-pop band Ella Riot that's making its debut tonight. Opening acts are **Nickie P.** (see below), local indie pop-folk singer-songwriter **Abigail Stauffer**, Livonia singer-songwriter **Nicole P'Simer**, the local teen pop-punk band **Heroes on Parade**, and local hip-hop MC **Phryme Rhyme Boss**. Also, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* narrated by local singer-songwriter Chris Bathgate, and an assortment of comedy, skits, and poetry by other performers TBA. **Dec. 28: TBA.** **Dec. 29: TBA.** **Dec. 30: Nickie P.** Popular soul-inflected hip-hop singer and rapper. Opening acts are **Wolfie Complex**, a local quartet, fronted by singer-guitarist Wolfie Geske, whose music mixes folk, jazz, and hip-hop, along with local hip-hop MC **Duke Newcomb**, local hip-hop ensemble **From the List**, and the Detroit blue-collar punk-rock trio **Detroit Underdogs**. **Dec. 31: The Bang!** Dance party with this local DJ collective that plays garage and 70s rock.

## Blue Tractor

**207 E. Washington 222-4095**  
This downtown tavern features live music Wed. 9:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.: Open Mike.** All acoustic musicians and vocalists invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter Zachariah Griffin.

## The Circus

**210 S. First St. 913-8890**  
This 2nd-floor downtown club features live music on Wed. & occasional other nights 10 p.m.-2 a.m. DJ on Thurs. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). Also, live music or karaoke on Fri. & Sat., 10 p.m.-2 a.m. in the street-level **Millennium Club** or basement **Cavern Club** (cover with dancing in these clubs). Age 21 & older admitted on Wed. & Thurs., age 18 & older on Fri. & Sat. **Dec. 3: Killer Flamingos.** Rock 'n' roll covers and originals by this popular, veteran band from Dearborn. Cover, dancing. In the Millennium Club. **Dec. 7: Dragon Wagon.** Highly regarded local acoustic roots-music sextet that calls its music "bluegrass folk-rock with a shot of Irish whiskey." **Dec. 10: Killer Flamingos.** See above. In the Millennium Club. **Dec. 14: Henhouse Prowlers.** Traditional bluegrass by this Chicago band whose songs touch on such classic bluegrass themes as love, loss, work, regret, and death. **Dec. 21: Whistle Pigs.** Bluegrass-flavored alt-country Americana trio from Carbondale (IL) whose instrumentation features banjo, accordion, and upright bass. **Dec. 28: Luke Winslow-King.** Cadillac-bred Americana singer-songwriter and guitarist who currently lives in New Orleans. His latest CD, *Old/New Baby (Fox on a Hill)*, was named a Top 10 Album of 2009 in the *American Songwriter* magazine editors poll, and *OffBeat* magazine says it "captures the allure of a speakeasy, the swagger of old Dixie, and the simple good-time charm of Western swing." **Dec. 31: Killer Flamingos.** See above. Tonight's New Year's Bash (\$39.95) includes a champagne toast at midnight and an all-night dinner & dessert buffet. In the Millennium Club.

## Conor O'Neill's

**318 S. Main 665-2968**  
Downtown Irish pub with live music Sun. 7:30-10 p.m. and Thurs. & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., and a DJ Fri. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. Karaoke on Sun., 10 p.m.-2

a.m. No cover, no dancing. **Every Sun.: Traditional Irish Session.** All invited to join or listen to an instrumental jam session. Followed at 10 p.m. by karaoke. **Dec. 1: Kris Kansis.** Versatile local band. **Dec. 3: Park Side Wes.** Local blues-rock and funk cover trio. **Dec. 8: Lucas Paul Band.** Local quartet led by pop-rock singer-songwriter Paul. **Dec. 10: K.T.'s Alibi.** Redford pop-rock quartet led by vocalist Katie Jimmerson. **Dec. 15: Michael May & the Messarounds.** Jazz-inflected blues and blues-rock by this veteran local quartet led by vocalist and blues harpist May. **Dec. 17: Lucas Paul Band.** See above. **Dec. 22: Mossy Moran.** Traditional singer from Ireland. **Dec. 29: TBA.** **Dec. 31: TBA.**

## Crazy Wisdom Tea Room

**114 S. Main 665-9468**  
Tea room above Crazy Wisdom Bookstore features live music, Fri. & Sat. 8:30-10:30 p.m. and Sun. 6-7:30 p.m. The Sun. shows are streamed live on a3radio.com. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 2: Bittersweet Christmas Band.** Seasonal music in a wide range of moods, from the reverent to the ridiculous, by this Chicago-based acoustic quartet known for its delicious vocal harmonies. **Dec. 3: Partly Brothers.** Detroit-area acoustic folk-rock singer-songwriter duo. **Dec. 4: Jen Sygit and Sam Corbin.** Double bill. Sygit is a Lansing singer-songwriter and guitarist known for her bluesy lyrics, down-home music, and sultry vocals, and Corbin is a Lansing pop-folk singer-songwriter whose influences range from Leonard Cohen to Bob Dylan. **Dec. 9: Bill Edwards.** Local country singer-songwriter, 1989 winner of the Billboard Country Songwriting Contest, whose songs have been covered by the likes of Lee Roy Parnell and T. Graham Brown. **Dec. 10: John Churchill.** Local tabla player, accompanied by several musician friends, who plays Indian classical, light classical, fusion, and folk music. **Dec. 11: John Finan and Ben Hassenger.** Double bill. Finan is a Canton singer-songwriter who writes country-tinged folk-pop, and Hassenger is a western Michigan singer-songwriter who's written 2 Detroit Tigers songs that are in the Baseball Hall of Fame. **Dec. 16: Spencer Michaud.** Local singer-songwriter and acoustic guitarist whose music blends Motown, Tin Pan Alley, and folk. **Dec. 17: Sarah Swanson.** Soulful, anthemic indie rock by this local singer-songwriter whose latest CD, *Dark Sunshine*, gained airplay around the country. She is backed by a band that includes guitarists Patrick Thomas and Alex Anest, bassist Rod Capps, drummer Chuck Mauk, and backup vocalist Jennifer Buehrer. **Dec. 18: Jill Jack.** Sultry-voiced Detroit folk-rock singer-songwriter whose music also draws freely on jazz and country flavors. Her 2005 CD *Moon and the Morning After* won a Detroit Music Award for Outstanding Folk Recording. **Dec. 23: Matthew Cifaldi.** Local folk-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 24: No music.** **Dec. 30: Billy Mack & the Juke Joint Johnnies.** Local roots-rock quartet led by former Starlight Drifters singer-guitarist Mack whose repertoire includes originals and rockabilly, early rock 'n' roll, western swing, and hillbilly bop covers. **Dec. 31: No music.**

## Creekside Grill and Bar

**5827 Jackson Rd. 827-2737**  
The intimate basement bar in this restaurant in Scio Township features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 18: II-V-I Orchestra.** Veteran local big band, led by saxophonist David Swain, that plays late-1930s swing and 1940s R&B. With vocalists Jim Tarravantes and Patty O'Connor. 6:30-9 p.m.

## Dreamland Theater

**26 N. Washington Ypsilanti 657-2337**  
This downtown Ypsilanti theater features occasional live music, 9-11 p.m. or later. Cover (usually a donation), no dancing. **Dec. 2: Breathe Owl Breathe.** Local trio of guitarist and banjoist Micah Middaugh, cellist Andrea Moreno-Beals, and percussionist Trevor Hobbs whose songs are atmospheric, intricately textured instrumental and vocal landscapes. Opening act is **Little Wings**, a West Coast band led by Kyle Field, a pop-folk singer-songwriter who has been described as combining "the off-key emotional honesty of Will Oldham with the childlike shared fun of Jonathan Richman."

## Goodnite Gracie

**301 W. Huron 623-1443**  
Martini and cigar bar below Live at PJ's lounge. Live music Thurs. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. and live music or DJ Sat. 8:30 or 9 p.m.-2 a.m. & occasional other nights, and a reggae DJ on Fri. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (except Fri. happy hour), dancing. **Every Thurs.: Laith Al-Saadi**

**Trio.** An eclectic mix of jazz, blues, R&B, Motown, and pop, including many originals, by a trio led by this local singer-guitarist. **Dec. 2: FUBAR.** 6-piece band led by guitarist Randy Tessier and featuring vocalist Sophia Hanifi. Their repertoire is an eclectic mix of originals by Hanifi and Tessier and covers of everyone from the Everly Brothers, the Kinks, and the Yardbirds to Miles Davis and Steve Earle. 6-9:30 p.m. **Dec. 3: Ellen Rowe Quartet.** Jazz ensemble led by U-M jazz piano professor Rowe. 6:30-9 p.m. **Dec. 3: Some Velvet Evening.** Carrie Shepard and Ann Arbor native John Holkeboer, the singer-songwriter duo behind the Ferndale psychedelic honky-tonk band John Holk & the Sequins, perform original songs inspired by such great close-harmony brother duos as the Louvins, Delmores, and Stanleys. Opening acts are **16 More Miles**, a local alt-country band, and **Stella!** an all-star all-female Detroit-area roots-country quartet fronted by local singer-songwriter and guitarist Jo Serrapere and featuring 3 other songwriters: multi-instrumentalist Jen Sygit, fiddler Diana Ladio, and bassist Laura Ann Bates. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. **Dec. 10: "A280 80s Mega Bash."** With a live band and DJs TBA. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. **Dec. 16: Los Gatos.** Local Latin jazz band led by drummer Pete Siers that specializes in the music of Cal Tjader, the late San Francisco vibes player who ignited the 1950s mambo craze. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 17: Amy Gore & the Valentines.** Detroit Americana pop quartet led by veteran postpunk garage rock singer-songwriter and guitarist Gore. Opening acts are **The Wolfs**, an Ypsilanti rock band, and another band TBA. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. **Dec. 23: Alex Belhaj New Orleans Quartet.** Local ensemble led by guitarist Belhaj that plays a range of New Orleans jazz styles, from struts, stomps, cakewalks, and rags to pop tunes, marches, and classical favorites. 6-9 p.m. **Dec. 31: "Surprise local legends"** TBA. 9 p.m.-2 a.m.

## Guy Hollerin's

**3600 Plymouth Rd. 769-9800**  
The restaurant in the North Campus Holiday Inn features music on Sat. & occasional Fri., 8 p.m.-midnight. Cover, dancing. If tickets are available in advance, they are sold at the restaurant. **Dec. 3: Jimmy McCarty & Mystery Train.** Popular rockabilly and roots-rock band led by veteran Detroit guitarist McCarty. **Dec. 10: Chris Canas Blues Revolution.** Detroit blues band fronted by Canas, a blues vocalist and virtuoso guitarist. **Dec. 17: Chef Chris & the Nairobi Trio.** Blues band led by vocalist and blues harpist Chef Chris Sirvinskis. **Dec. 31: George Bedard & the Kingpins.** Superfine honky-tonk dance tunes from swing to vintage blues, country, rockabilly, and early rock 'n' roll classics, with some memorable originals penned by guitar genius Bedard. With drummer Rich Dishman and bassist Randy Tessier. Bedard's tasty new all-instrumental CD, *Pickin' Apart the Past*, includes "Swing Minor 65," his surf-music adaptation of a Django Reinhardt tune. The opening set features an all-star band led by Bedard and veteran roots-rockers **Steve Nardella** performing songs from the repertoire of their fabled 70s band **The Silvertones**.

## The Habitat Lounge

**3050 Jackson Rd. 665-3636**  
The lounge at Weber's Inn features dance bands Tues.-Thurs., 8:45 p.m.-12:30 a.m., and Fri. & Sat., 8:45 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, DJ Mon., 7 p.m.-midnight, and solo pianists Tues.-Sun., 6-8:45 p.m. Dancing, no cover. **Dec. 1: Dave Hamilton.** Pop covers by this versatile solo guitarist. **Dec. 2 & 3: Dr. Smith.** Detroit classic rock quintet. **Dec. 6-8: Green-Eyed Soul.** Windsor pop trio fronted by vocalists Melissa Danese and Fallon Deluca. **Dec. 9 & 10: Scoot Magoo.** Allen Park rock 'n' roll quintet. **Dec. 13-15: Silce.** East Lansing pop dance quartet. **Dec. 16 & 17: Soulstice.** Hard-driving horn-fueled funk dance band from East Lansing. **Dec. 20-22: Dave Hamilton.** See above. **Dec. 23: Chateau.** Veteran pop dance band. **Dec. 27-29: Scotty Alexander.** Singer-pianist. **Dec. 30 & 31: Remedy.** Detroit dance band.

## Live at PJ's

**102 S. First St. 623-1443**  
This lounge features live music Sun. 5-8:30 p.m. and some Thurs. 7:30-11 p.m., along with Fri. happy hour 6:30-9 p.m. Dance DJs (or occasional live music) Fri. & Sat. 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (except happy hour), dancing. Reservations available for Thurs. blues shows at liveandgracies.com. **Every Sun.: Phil Oglivie's Rhythm Kings.** This local 10-piece big band is one of the few to specialize in the old-time big-band music of the late 1920s and early 1930s associated with Jelly Roll Morton and King Oliver. Arrangements by the renowned early-jazz pianist James Dapogny and tubaist Chris Smith. **Dec. 2:**



## Jackie Kashain

**December 1 2 3**

HBO VH1 A & E  
Comedy Central  
Just for Laughs Comedy Festival  
and more!!



## Joe DeVito

**December 8 9 10**

NBC's "Last Comic Standing"  
E! "Chelsea Lately"  
BBC's "The World Stands Up"  
Animal Planet "The A List"  
Comedy Central and more!!



## Dave Dyer

**December 15 16 17**

"The Bob & Tom Show"  
writes for  
"The Zany Report"  
NBC's "Late Night w/Fallon"  
one of our favorites



## Keith Ruff

**December 22 & 23**

A regular performer at  
DTE Energy Center  
"Night Shift" on cable



## Norm Stulz

**December 29 & 30**

America's favorite storyteller  
hits the A2 Comedy stage.



## New Year's Eve with Jamie Lissow

Special Engagement



"The Tonight Show"  
"Comedy Central Presents"  
FOX NEWS "Red Eye"  
NBC's "Late Friday"  
"Premium Blend"  
"Star search"  
"The Late Late Show"  
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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

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## **Music at Nightspots**

**"WEMU 5:01 Jazz Series."** With a local jazz band TBA. **Dec. 8: Commander Cody Band.** See The Ark. \$20 (SRO, \$8). 7:30 & 9 p.m. **Dec. 9: Drivin' Sideways.** Veteran local band fueled by Pontiac Pete Ferguson's alternately soulful and ornery vocals. Their country-based repertoire still features lots of classic honky-tonk, but they also cover everyone from Chuck Berry and Johnny Burnette to the Beatles and James Brown. With guitarist George Bedard, bassist Chris Goerke, drummer Mark Newbound, and keyboardist Jim King. 6-9:30 p.m. **Dec. 15: Nick Moss & the Flip-Tops.** Classic Chicago blues band led by guitarist and blues-harpist Moss. \$12.50 (SRO, \$8). 7:30 & 9 p.m. **Dec. 16: The Vibratons.** All-star band led by veteran local rocker Dan Mulholland, the charismatic former leader of the Watusis and several other great local rock 'n' roll bands. Its repertoire includes everything from garage rock and blues to country and folk, along with more ballads than Mulholland usually essays. With guitarist Brian Delaney, keyboardist Andy Adamson, bassist Jerry Hancock, and drummer Rich Dishman. 6-9:30 p.m. **Dec. 23: "Christmas A-Go-Go Rock Show."** With **Mr. Largebeat's Rockasaurus**, a big-beat space-rock band led by veteran local singer-songwriter (and theremin player) Jim Gertz, and **Cloud 10 All-Stars**, a veteran local blues, funk, soul, and rock 'n' roll dance quartet led by bassist Ben Piner. 6-9:30 p.m. **Dec. 30: Steve Newhouse & the Nuke-a-billies.** Veteran local classic country and country-rock band led by singer-guitarist Newhouse. With guitarist Kevin Brown, bassist Chris Goerke, and drummer Eric Nyhuis. 6-9:30 p.m. **Dec. 31: Drivin' Sideways.** See above. With a guest guitarist TBA sitting in for George Bedard. 6-9:30 p.m.

## **The Necto**

**516 E. Liberty 994-5436**  
This popular dance club features local and national DJs 6 nights a week, Mon.-Sat., 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, occasional live shows. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 8: MEDMA Presents Impulse!** The Michigan Electronic Dance Music Association's monthly showcase of progressive house, trance, and electronic dance music TBA. **Dec. 10: "Plastic Passion."** DJ Josh Burge hosts this monthly retro dance party with an eclectic mix of everything from New Wave, Britpop, and postpunk to acid house, goth rock, and industrial.

## **Old Town**

**122 W. Liberty 662-9291**  
This downtown corner bar features live music Sun. & occasional other nights, 8-10 p.m. No dancing, no cover. The performers are usually accompanied by various drop-in friends. **Dec. 4: Creole du Nord.** This Manchester band plays Cajun, zydeco, swing, and line dance music. **Dec. 11: Chris Bathgate.** Talented local singer-songwriter who writes heart-felt, poetic story songs in a variety of moods. He has a critically acclaimed new CD, *Salt Year*. **Dec. 18: Gwyneth Hayes Duo.** Jazz-soul fusion by the local duo of singer-songwriter and bassist Hayes and guitarist Jake Reichbart.

## **Oz's Music Environment**

**1920 Packard 662-8283**  
This storefront next to Oz's music store features live music most Tues. 7:30-9:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted). Cover by donation, no dancing. **Dec. 6: "Songwriters Open Mike."** All songwriters invited. Hosted by Jim Novak. **Dec. 27: "Ukulele Jam."** Musicians of all ability levels invited.

## **Passport**

**3776 S. State 222-1111**  
This south-side restaurant features live music Mon. 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thurs. 6-10 p.m., and Sat. 8 p.m.-midnight. Also, dance DJs Fri. 8 p.m.-2 a.m., and ballroom dance lessons Sun. 5-9 p.m. Karaoke Tues. 8 p.m.-midnight. No cover, dancing. **Every Mon.: Open Mike.** All musicians invited. **Every Thurs.:** Jazz bands TBA. **Every Sat.:** Dance bands TBA.

## **The Quarter Bistro**

**300 S. Maple 929-9200**  
This west-side restaurant features live music Thurs. 6:30-9 p.m., Sat. 7:30-10 p.m., and occasional other nights. Also, a DJ on Fri., 6-11 p.m. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 1: Sam Van Wagoner.** Detroit blues-rock singer-songwriter and guitarist. **Dec. 3: Meg & Tony.** Acoustic rock covers by the Royal Oak duo of vocalist Meghan Kelly and guitarist Tony Anthony. **Dec. 8: Jimmy Auquier.** Acoustic pop-rock singer-guitarist from Detroit. **Dec. 10: Jeff Tucker.**

Acoustic singer-songwriter from Toledo who accompanies himself on guitar and harmonica and whose music blends rock, pop, and country with elements of Americana and jazz. **Dec. 15: Teddy Richards.** Singer-guitarist (and son of soul legend Aretha Franklin) whose band plays rock 'n' roll and R&B originals and covers. **Dec. 17: Gia Warner.** Acoustic pop-folk singer-songwriter from Northville. **Dec. 22: Kevin Wilson.** Classic rock and country singer-guitarist. **Dec. 29: Sean Z.** Detroit pop-rock singer-songwriter. **Dec. 31:** No music.

## **Ravens Club**

**207 S. Main 214-0400**  
This downtown bar & grill features live music, Wed. 9 p.m.-midnight. No cover, no dancing. **Every Wed.:** **Ron Brooks Trio.** Mainstream bebop-rooted jazz by this trio led by veteran local bassist Brooks. With pianist Tad Weed and drummer George Davidson.

## **Silvio's Organic Pizza**

**715 North University 214-6666**  
This campus-area restaurant features live music Fri. 7-9 p.m., and occasional other nights. No cover, no dancing. **Dec. 2: The Lady K Players.** Local jazz trio whose repertoire includes jazz standards, modified pop tunes, and originals. With guitarist Katharine Battistoni, bassist Ben Rolston, and drummer Jeremy Edwards. **Dec. 5: "Chamber Jam."** See review, p. 54. The local classical chamber music ensemble **Classical Revolution** hosts a jam session. All musicians invited to play everything from Bach to Bartók. 7:30-11 p.m. **Dec. 9: Isosceles.** Versatile local acoustic trio that plays a mix of jazz, swing, country, pop, and folk. With vocalist Shekinah Errington, bassist Tim Berla, and guitarist Jim Cooney. **Dec. 16: The Dellwoods.** Local jazz quintet. **Dec. 23 & 30:** TBA.

## **Tap Room**

**201 W. Michigan Ypsilanti 482-5320**  
This popular downtown Ypsilanti tavern features live music most Wed. 7-11 p.m., Thurs. 8 p.m.-midnight, & Sat. and occasional Fri. 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Also, DJ with Latin dance music, Wed. 9 p.m.-1 a.m. No cover, dancing. **Every Thurs.: Electric Open Mike.** Hosted by **The Martindales**, a local band led by singer-guitarist Brian Brickley that plays blues and rock covers and originals. All electric musicians invited. **Dec. 1: Six Foot Poles.** Local classic rock band. 8-9 p.m. **Dec. 3: Alan Smith's All-Star Blues Revue.** Vocalist and blues harpist Danny Pratt fronts an ensemble of local blues veterans that's anchored by drummer Alan Smith and bassist Todd Perkins. With blues harpist Dave Morris, guitarist Wally Schmid, and keyboardist Greg Dermeyer. **Dec. 10: Six Foot Poles.** See above. **Dec. 17: Ann Arbor Music Center Kids Showcase.** Young musicians perform pop and rock covers. 6-8 p.m. **Dec. 17: The Modfather.** Veteran Ypsilanti 60s powerpop garage rock band that tonight presents a "Christmas Spectacular." **Dec. 31:** TBA.

## **Vinology**

**110 S. Main 222-9841**  
This wine bar and restaurant features live jazz, Thurs. 9 p.m.-midnight, and occasional other nights. No cover, no dancing (unless otherwise noted). **Dec. 1: Paul Keller Quartet.** High-energy mainstream jazz by this local ensemble led by bassist Keller. **Dec. 8: Global Jazz Project.** Upbeat, inspirational contemporary jazz by a trio of Detroit-area jazz veterans led by saxophonist Mark Hershberger. With guitarist and mandolinist Bastian Trimpe and percussionist Jerry LeDuff. The *Metro Times* calls their music "high-energy contemporary funk and traditional jazz with a global interpretation." **Dec. 15: Doug Horn Quartet.** 40s & 50s swing and bebop by a jazz ensemble led by local alto saxophonist Horn. **Dec. 22: Paul VornHagen Trio.** Jazz standards by this local trio led by saxophonist and flutist VornHagen. With pianist Gary Shunk and bassist Kurt Krahnke. **Dec. 29: Scott Gwinnell Trio.** Jazz ensemble led by veteran Detroit-area pianist Gwinnell, a University of Toledo visiting music professor who is also the music director of vocalese legend Jon Hendricks' Vocalstra.

## **Wolverine State Brewing Co.**

**2019 W. Stadium 369-2990**  
This west side brewpub features occasional live music. Cover, dancing. **Dec. 11: Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr.** Detroit indie electronic-pop duo whose fans include Dale Earnhardt Jr. 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

## **Woodruff's**

**6 E. Cross Ypsilanti 483-2800**  
This new club in Ypsilanti's Depot Town features live music Sun. & Thurs. 8-11 p.m., Tues. 7-10 p.m., and Mon., Wed., Fri., & Sat. 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Also, karaoke on Thurs. 11 p.m.-1 a.m. and DJ on Sun. & Tues. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. Cover (except Tues.), dancing. **Every Sun.:** **Dan Bennett Quartet.** Experimental jazz ensemble led by Nomo saxophonist Bennett. 8-11 p.m. **Every Sun.:** **Todd Osborne.** This Detroit-area electronic musician spins techno, electronica, funk, and soul records. 11 p.m.-2 a.m. **Every Mon.:** **Laith Al-Saadi.** See Black Pearl. **Every Tues.:** "Acoustic Open Mike." All acoustic musicians invited. Hosted by local singer-songwriter **Dave Boutette.** 7-10 p.m. **Every Tues.:** "Absolute Beginners." DJs Tim Sendra and Fred Thomas play 60s-style pop music. 10 p.m.-2 a.m. **Dec. 1: Ghostlady.** Local self-styled "quirk pop" band that plays guitar, drums, bells, loop pedal, and Farfisa organ. Opening acts are **Ghost Heart**, a Grand Rapids rock quartet, and **Van Houten**, a local rock band. **Dec. 2: Back Forty.** Local acoustic string jam quintet that plays a brand of twangy roots-folk music fused with elements of jazz and psychedelic rock that it calls "down-home funk-grass." **Dec. 3: Gun Lake.** Local indie pop-folk trio led by singer-songwriter Mark Fain. Opening acts are the Grand Rapids pop quartet **Pistolbrides**, the Stevens Point (WI) pop-rock band **Good Grief**, and **Jared Saltiel & the Dirty Birds**, a locally bred Brooklyn (NY) folk-rock band led by singer-songwriter Saltiel. **Dec. 7: TBA.** **Dec. 8: J.D. McPherson.** Chicago-based straight-ahead rock 'n' roll trio led by McPherson, a singer-guitarist from Broken Arrow (OK) whose influences range from Little Richard and James Brown to David Byrne and Joe Strummer. Opening act is **Rollie Tussing & the Midwest Territory Band**, an ensemble led by guitar virtuoso Tussing, a former Ann Arborite who now lives in Portland (OR). 8-11 p.m. **Dec. 9: Lake Folk.** Local acoustic indie string-based quintet (cello, bass, banjo, guitar, and drums) whose roots-noir repertoire explores the dark, bizarre, and wonderful. Opening act is **The Crane Wives**, a Grand Rapids folk-rock Americana quintet known for its 3-part vocal harmonies and eclectic instrumentation. **Dec. 10: October Babies.** Popular self-styled "upbeat global soul" pop-jazz jam quartet, led by the Ypsilanti husband-and-wife duo of Toko Shiiki-Santos and Erik Santos, whose songs are sung mostly in Japanese. Opening acts are **Tiny Water Flea Clocks**, a Detroit soul-influenced folk-rock quartet, and **Mary Margaret**, a local pop-folk singer-songwriter. **Dec. 14: Our Brother the Native.** Local neo-soul R&B trio. Opening acts are **Fred Thomas**, a versatile local indie singer-songwriter, and **Annie Palmer**, an Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter. **Dec. 15: The Finer Things.** Local piano-driven rock trio whose influences range from Ben Folds to the White Stripes. Opening acts are **The Boys Themselves**, a local fuzzpop power trio, and **The Marietta**, a Flint country-rock quartet. 8-11 p.m. **Dec. 16: TBA.** **Dec. 17: "Elbow Deep."** Drag show and gay and lesbian dance night hosted by Maxi and Jennifer of the House of Chanel, with a DJ TBA. **Dec. 18: City Center.** Local indie rock quartet led by singer-songwriter Fred Thomas. Opening acts are local pop-rock singer-songwriter **Avery Feral**, the Grand Rapids powerpop quartet **Radlactor Hospital**, Ypsilanti pop-folk singer-songwriter **Annie Palmer**, and **Sail.** **Dec. 21: TBA.** **Dec. 22: Cash Harrison & the Terrible Decisions.** Local acoustic pop-folk band. Opening act is **del Brutto**, a local guitar-and-drums blues-folk-rock duo. **Dec. 23: TBA.** **Dec. 28-Jan. 1: Mittenfest VI.** A 5-night showcase of 60 local and Michigan bands in a wide spectrum of genres. Daily lineups available at [mittenfest.org](http://mittenfest.org). A benefit for the nonprofit youth tutoring and writing center 826michigan. \$10 per night. 4 p.m.-2 a.m.

## **Zal Gaz Grotto**

**2070 W. Stadium 663-1202**  
This Masonic social and service club hosts live music Mon. 8:15-11 p.m., Tues. 5:30-8:30 p.m., & occasional other nights. Cover, dancing. **Every Mon.:** **Paul Keller Orchestra.** Award-winning 15-piece big band led by bassist Keller and featuring vocalist Sarah D'Angelo and occasional guest vocalists. **Every Tues.:** **Paul Klinger's Easy Street Jazz Band.** Dixieland and swing by this local ensemble led by saxophonist and trumpeter Klinger. **Dec. 2: Blueshouse/313.** Local blues trio, led by veteran English singer-guitarist Mike Brooks, whose repertoire combines blues standards with Brooks originals like "She's Got an Alibi," "Retribution Blues," and "Stone Cold Steamin' Mental." With bassist Brother Bille Lewis, drummer Geno Parker, and saxophonist Eric Korte. 7:30-10:30 p.m.



# December Events

## We want to know about your event!

Please send a press release (no phone calls, please).

- **By email:** hinch@aaobserver.com
- **By phone:** 769-3175
- **By mail:** John Hinchey, Calendar Editor, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
- **By fax:** 769-3375
- **After-hours drop box:** right side of the Observer's front door facing Catherine

### What gets in?

We give priority to Ann Arbor events. Always include a contact person's telephone number. Please try to submit materials as early as possible; items submitted after the deadline (the tenth day of the preceding month) might not get in.

### Next month's deadline:

All appropriate materials received by the tenth day of the month for the upcoming month will be used as space permits; materials submitted later might not get in (but will be added to arborweb).

### arborweb:

An expanded, continually updated version of this calendar is available at [arborweb.com](http://arborweb.com). This calendar is updated daily. If you have an event not listed in the print calendar, or want to update a listed event, please send it and we'll post it on arborweb.

### arbormail:

Get your alerts by email—send a reminder when your favorite performer, group, or special event shows up in town. Sign up at [arborweb.com/arbormail\\_help.html](http://arborweb.com/arbormail_help.html).

★ Denotes a free event.

## WARNING!

To save space, many recurrent events are noted only the first time they occur. This includes many weekly and biweekly events. To find a full list of events for the last Wednesday in the month, for example, readers should also check earlier Wednesday listings, especially the first Wednesday.

[www.arborweb.com](http://www.arborweb.com)

## 1 THURSDAY

★**Winter Democratic Rides: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Daily. The assembled riders choose their own pace, distance, and destination, except Saturday mornings, which feature a 22-mile ride at various paces along the Border-to-Border Trail to the Sidetrack in Ypsilanti for breakfast. On weekdays, riders can also start at 11 a.m. from the gazebo in downtown Dexter. Note: Riders should be prepared to take care of themselves on all AABTS rides. Carry a water bottle, a spare tire or tube, a pump, a cell phone, and snacks. 10 a.m. (daily) & 1 p.m. (Sat. & Sun. only), meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. 545-0541 (morning ride), 994-5908 (afternoon ride).

**Social Mah-Jongg: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Thurs. All seniors age 50 & over invited to play this intricate game played with colorful tiles. 10 a.m.—noon, Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 (members, free). 794-6250.

★**Older Adults Thursday: Jewish Community Center.** Every Thurs. A weekly program of activities primarily for seniors. The program begins at 10 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute exercise program led by Maria Farquhar. An 11 a.m. Current Events discussion group led by Heather Dombey is followed at noon by a homemade dairy lunch (\$3) and at 1 p.m. by a cultural or educational program. Dec. 1: Local organizational consultant and motivational speaker Happy Feigelson, author of *Energize Your Meetings with Laughter*, discusses "How's Your Laugh Life?" Dec. 8: U-M physics professor Fred Becchetti demonstrates "The Magic of Physics." Dec. 15: Ohio State political science professor Herbert Weisberg discusses "The Characteristics and Behaviors of Jewish American Voters." Dec. 22: Hanukkah Celebration with a video of a JCC Players production and dancing by Ecumenical Campus Center students. Dec. 29: Klezmer music to ring in the New Year by the local duo of pianist Dave Gitelman and clarinetist Ralph Katz. 10 a.m.—3 p.m.,



All are invited to join in Handel's beloved oratorio at the 47th Annual Community Messiah Sing December 12.

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James Leonard

### 73 The Wheeler Brothers

Folk-rock meeting point

James M. Manheim

### 74 Ain't Misbehavin'

Keeping the Harlem Renaissance alive

Sally Mitani

## MUSIC AT NIGHTSPOTS

### 54 Nightspots

Classical Revolution "Chamber Jam"

John Hinchey

James Leonard

## DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

University of Michigan Library

**M**Library

### HATCHER LIBRARY

913 S. University Avenue

### December 2-22

Exhibit: *My Right Self: Color Portraiture and Documentary Photography Exploring Issues of Gender and Identity*; in the North Lobby display cases

### Wednesday, December 7

5:30-7:00 pm

The Author's Forum presents *Ghost Writers: Us Haunting Them*, a conversation with Keith Taylor and Laura Kasischke; in the Hatcher Library Gallery

### UDERSTADT CENTER, NORTH CAMPUS

2281 Bonisteel Blvd

### December 1 - January 10

12:00-6:00 pm, Mon-Fri

Exhibit: *plant* by Paul Kaiser, the premiere of new work exploring the abandoned Packard plant in Detroit; in the Duderstadt Center Gallery

## GRAND OPENING

The University of Michigan Library invites you to the grand opening of the

**Stephen S. Clark Library**

for Maps, Government Information, and Data Services

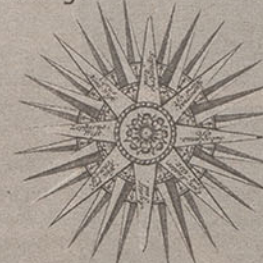
Friday, December 2

4:00 pm

Hatcher Library, 2nd Floor

Join us for the ribbon cutting ceremony, featuring the U-M Men's Glee Club, tours and refreshments.

This new library brings together our extensive collection of maps, a wealth of government information, data-related expertise, and other resources to enable students and scholars in every discipline to explore, discover and create new knowledge.



All events are **free and open to the public**. For more information about these events, and to see a complete listing of events, go to:

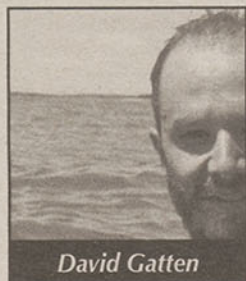
[www.lib.umich.edu/events](http://www.lib.umich.edu/events)





# December 2011 Event highlights Ann Arbor District Library

Events will take place in the Downtown Library Multi-Purpose Room, unless otherwise noted.



David Gatten



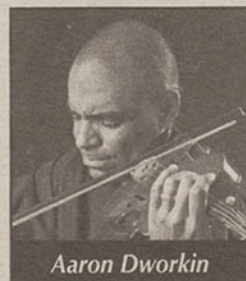
Commander Cody



John Sinclair



Stephanie Izard



Aaron Dworkin



Matthew Ball

- Thursday 1** 6:00 - 7:00 pm **Filmmaker David Gatten** discusses *Working With Words* and how he uses rare books and historical documents as inspiration
- Friday 2** 7:00 - 8:30 pm **Freeing John Sinclair: Rock and Revolution Exhibit Opening**  
This opening reception features appearances by archivist **Michael Erlewine**, artist **Gary Grimshaw**, and photographer **Leni Sinclair**
- Sunday 4** 1:00 - 3:00 pm **Comic Artists Forum** • Google+ guru **Ryan Estrada** and cartoonist **Jerzy Drozd** discuss marketing your work via social media • GRADE 6 - ADULT
- Monday 5** 7:00 - 8:00 pm **Fats Waller: Ain't Misbehavin' Lecture with Musical Interludes** with Prof. **James Dapogny**, pianist, recording artist and jazz connoisseur (NO CHARGE) • PERFORMANCE NETWORK THEATRE, 120 E. HURON
- Wednesday 7** 7:00 - 8:00 pm **CONCERT • The Yellow Room Gang** • Enjoy the lively music of these accomplished Michigan songwriters and performers
- Thursday 8** 7:00 - 8:30 pm **Small Dishes with Chef Brendan McCall of Mani Osteria**  
Learn the secrets of small dishes that pack big flavor and flair  
TRAVERWOOD BRANCH
- Friday 9** 8:00 - 11:30 pm **Freeing John Sinclair Concert with the Commander Cody Band**  
Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the John Sinclair Freedom Rally with guests **John Sinclair & Beatnik Youth** and the launch of the Freeing John Sinclair website (NO CHARGE) • THE ARK, 316 S. MAIN ST.
- Saturday 10** 1:00 - 2:30 pm **Culture Jamming: A Long View Back – A Panel Discussion with John and Leni Sinclair, Pun Plamondon, David Fenton, and Genie Parker** • UM Prof. **Bruce Conforth** moderates a discussion of members of Ann Arbor's White Panthers and Rainbow People's Party (NO CHARGE) • MICHIGAN UNION (PENDLETON ROOM), 530 S. STATE ST.
- Saturday 10** 2:00 - 4:00 pm **You Wrote A Novel...Now What? Revision & Marketing Strategies with Authors Shutta Crum and Karen Simpson**  
All aspiring authors welcome! • GRADE 9 - ADULT • PITTSFIELD BRANCH
- Saturday 10** 3:00 - 4:30 pm **Mary Stack: Paralympic Powerlifter** • Mary is the leading female figure in U.S. Paralympic powerlifting • MALLETT'S CREEK BRANCH
- Monday 12** 10:30 am - 12:30 pm **Finding Grant Funding for Community Nonprofits**  
**Dr. Karen Downing**, UM Foundation and Grants Librarian, demonstrates online resources for getting grants for your nonprofit
- Monday 12** 7:00 - 8:30 pm **Top Chef Winner Stephanie Izard Discusses Her New Book**  
The chef prepares a delicious dish, gives cooking tips, and signs her book, *Girl in the Kitchen: How A Top Chef Cooks, Thinks, Shops, Eats and Drinks*, for sale at this event!
- Tuesday 13** 7:00 - 8:30 pm **Musician Aaron Dworkin Discusses His Memoir, Uncommon Rhythm: A Black, White, Jewish, Jehovah's Witness, Irish Catholic Adoptee's Journey to Leadership** • Founder/President of the Sphinx Organization discusses his personal journey through social isolation and discrimination to become a leader in cultural arts
- Saturday 17** 1:00 - 2:00 pm **CONCERT • Classical Bells** presents a handbell concert the whole family will enjoy! • ALL AGES
- Monday 19** 7:00 - 8:30 pm **Kids Falling Through the Cracks and How Technology Can Hinder or Advance Skills with Building Bridges Therapy Center**
- Tuesday 20** 7:00 - 8:00 pm **CONCERT • Blues & Boogie-Woogie Pianist Matthew Ball**  
Enjoy an American roots program for the whole family!
- Thursday 22** 7:00 - 8:30 pm **FILM • Santa Claus Conquers the Martians, One of the Worst Movies Ever Made!** • This 1964 film is so bad, it's hilarious!

For more information, call 327.4200 or visit our website at [aadl.org](http://aadl.org)

JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off-Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 971-0990.

★U-M Center for Japanese Studies Noon Lecture Series. Dec. 1 & 8. Lectures by U-M and visiting scholars. Dec. 1: Tufts University Japanese literature professor Charles Shiro Inouye on "Figurality and the Development of Modern Consciousness." Dec. 8: U-M social work professor Miekko Yoshihama on "Photo Voice: Women's Experiences of the Great East Japan Earthquake." Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 763-4301.

★"God's Echo": Temple Beth Emeth Spirituality Book Club. Dec. 1 & 13. TBE cantor Annie Rose leads a discussion of Sandy Sasso's book about the myriad rabbinical writings known as Midrash written between 400 and 1200 C.E. that expound on the Torah. Noon-1:30 p.m. (Dec. 1) & 7:30-9 p.m. (Dec. 13), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free. 665-4744.

★Gifts of Art: U-M Hospitals. Dec. 1, 8, 15, 22. Performances by local musicians, including classical music by the Catalyst Quartet (Dec. 1), old-timey holiday music by the Dodworth Holiday Brass Ensemble (Dec. 8), traditional klezmer music by members of the Avraham Ben Ze'ev Orchestra (Dec. 15), and holiday harmonies by Counterpoint (Dec. 22). 12:10 p.m., U-M Hospital lobby, 1500 E. Medical Center Dr. (off Fuller). Free. 936-ARTS.

★U-M Frankel Center for Judaic Studies Lecture Series. Dec. 1 & 8. Talks by visiting scholars. Dec. 1: University of Texas Jewish studies professor Miriam Bodian on "Freedom of Conscience and the Jews of Early Modern Amsterdam." Dec. 8: University of Florida political science professor Ken Wald on "The Choosing People: Understanding American Jewish Political Behavior." 12:15-1:15 p.m., 2022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer. Free. 763-9047.

ACBL Duplicate Bridge: Ann Arbor Senior Center. Every Sun., Mon., Wed., & Thurs. All seniors age 55 & over invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. Bring a partner. 1:15 p.m. (Sun.), 12:45-4 p.m. (Mon.), & Noon-3 p.m. (Wed. & Thurs.), Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$7 (members, \$6). 794-6250.

★"Conversations on Europe": U-M Center for European Studies. Dec. 1 & 8. Dec. 1: U-M history professor Pamela Ballinger discusses "Between Empire and Gaddafi: Italian Settlers in Libya, 1894-1960." Dec. 8: University of Toronto history professor Natalie Rothman on "Trans-Imperial Subjects and Mediation of Sovereignty in the Early Modern Mediterranean." 4-5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

★"Schleppers and Shoppers": Jews, Street Markets, and Ready-to-Wear Fashion in Interwar London": U-M Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies. Talk by Johns Hopkins University history professor Judith Walkowitz. 4-6 p.m., 1014 Tisch Hall, 435 S. State. Free. 615-7400.

★"Counting the Ways: Enumeration in Combinatorics, Algebra, and Geometry": U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts. Lecture by U-M mathematics professor Sergey Fomin. 4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 998-6251.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. Dec. 1-3 (different programs). Dec. 1 & 3: Joshua Major directs U-M opera students in scenes from Donizetti's *Don Pasquale*, Mozart's *Idomeneo*, and Wagner's *Die Walküre*. 5 p.m., U-M School of Music McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-2538.

"Rush Hour Relief": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Dec. 1, 8, 15, & 29. Whole Foods staffers discuss wine. Tastings with cheese and appetizers. Topics: Pinot Noir (Dec. 1), Cabernet Sauvignon (Dec. 8), "90 Point-Rated Wines" (Dec. 15), and sparkling wines (Dec. 29). Also, Michigan beer tastings (price varies) at 5 p.m. with representatives of Jolly Pumpkin (Dec. 2) and Dark Horse Brewing Company (Dec. 16). 5-8:30 p.m., Whole Foods wine bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. \$17. 997-7500.

★"Drawing on Childhood": U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series. Digital artist Paul Kaiser gives a slide-illustrated presentation on his 3-D digital art that incorporates body movements recorded by motion-capture devices. 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647-2337.

★"Day With(out) Art: John Weir": U-M English Department Zell Visiting Writers Series. Reading by this Queens College creative writing professor, a prolific author of two novels, numerous short stories, essays, and reviews. Weir's award-winning 1989 debut novel, *The Irreversible Decline of Eddie Socket*, was one of the first novels to explore the pain and horror of the AIDS epidemic in NYC. In conjunction with World AIDS day, "Day With(out) Art" acknowledges the impact of AIDS on the international arts community. 5:10 p.m., UMMA Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 764-6330.

★Featured Game Night: Vault of Midnight. Every Thurs. All invited to try out one of the store's board



# choral music

## An Evening of Sacred Song

... and cowboy music?

When the lights turn low, audience members scurry to find their seats, but I am surprised that the room continues to stay dark. A single voice pierces the darkness, a soulful alto, soon answered by harmonies from around the room. Flickering candles lead the way as the singers slowly sing their way towards the stage, their candlelight and harmonies winding an intricate braid through the audience. When the lights are turned on for the next song, the multi-ethnic choral group, Sacred Song, is gathered behind a beautiful display of seashells and candles, a centerpiece for the world as much as for the stage.

"An Evening of Sacred Song" is an annual benefit concert of a cappella and accompanied vocal music and more. It calls itself "A Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit." The group's director, Laura Machida, writes in its blog: "These evenings gather the community and provide a time to share and generate energy together, giving voice to the sacred power within. The singers, who live locally, believe that the conditions of our current times can be improved if we open to the spirit of loving sister- and brotherhood within us all."

Members of this ensemble are well known throughout the community, and just as diverse as the chorus members themselves is the eclectic variety of musical styles, encompassing folk, gospel, sixties songs, rock, world music, funk, and cowboy songs.

Yep, that's right. Cowboy songs. Complete with yodeling. I told you—diverse.



FRANCES KAI-HWA WANG

The wide range of music is woven together to allow each member to show off his or her particular strength. The concert moves skillfully between the lighthearted and the soulful, the celebratory and the pensive. The lyrics of each song reveal much about the character of this chorus. The final song is an amazing funk number—the entire ensemble alive and dancing and joined by all former members—that takes down the house.

Perhaps most distinctive is that every year the proceeds of this concert are donated to a different local nonprofit organization that affirms the values of social justice and spiritual inclusiveness. Past beneficiaries have included the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights and the Women's Center of Southeastern Michigan.

At the end of the concert is a small reception with appetizers and desserts where audience members have a chance to socialize and meet the singers before taking that good energy back out into the snow.

The fifteenth annual Evening of Sacred Song is to be held on Saturday, December 3, at the Vineyard Church on Platt Road. And there may or may not be cowboy music this year.

—Frances Kai-Hwa Wang

games. This month's featured games include Gears of War (Dec. 1), Elder Sign (Dec. 8), A Few Acres of Snow (Dec. 15), Space Empires (Dec. 22), and Glory to Rome (Dec. 29). 6–7 p.m., Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main. Free. 998–1413.

**Magic: The Gathering Tournament: Get Your Game On.** Every Sun.–Fri., except Dec. 25. All invited to compete in tournaments of this popular collectible card game using standard constructed (Sun. & Thurs.), extended (Mon.), Elder Dragon Highlander (Tues.), Legacy (Wed.) and booster draft (Fri.) decks. Prizes. Bring your own cards (except Fri.). 6 p.m. (Mon.–Fri.) & 1 p.m. (Sun.). Get Your Game On, 310 S. State. \$5 (Tues., free; Fri., \$15 includes cards). 786–3746.

**★Evening Winter Ride: Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society.** Every Tues. & Thurs. Slow/moderate-paced ride, 15–20 miles, along the Border-to-Border Trail or lightly traveled Whitmore Lake Rd. 6:30 p.m., meet at Wheeler Park, N. Fourth Ave. at Depot St. Free. Preregistration required by joining groups. [google.com/group/aabts-winter-evening-rides](http://google.com/group/aabts-winter-evening-rides) and emailing [aabts-evening-winter-rides@googlegroups.com](mailto:aabts-evening-winter-rides@googlegroups.com) before 5 p.m. 276–0240.

**8th Annual Wine Celler: HIV/AIDS Resource Center Fundraiser.** Wine tastings, hors d'oeuvres, chocolates, and live jazz by the Jesse Kramer Trio. Raffle of more than 100 bottles of wine donated and autographed by local celebrities and wine collectors. 6:30 p.m., Metal Studio & Gallery, 220 Felch. Tickets \$50 in advance; \$60 at the door. Raffle tickets \$10. 572–9355.

**★Comhaltas.** Every Thurs. All invited to join members of this local chapter of the Detroit Irish Music Association for an informal evening playing traditional Irish music on various instruments. Lessons offered. 6:30–9:30 p.m., FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. Free. 474–1569.

**Euchre Night: Out Loud Chorus Fundraiser.** All invited to compete in a euchre tournament. No partner necessary; cash prizes for overall winner and losers.

er. 7 p.m., CUBS' AC in Colonial Lanes, 1950 South Industrial. \$10. 973–6084, 663–0036.

**ACBL Bridge: Ann Arbor City Club.** Every Thurs. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. No partner required. 7 p.m., Ann Arbor City Club, 1830 Washtenaw. \$5. 761–6691.

**★Annual Show-and-Tell & Holiday Party: Huron Hills Lapidary & Mineral Society.** Club members show their mineral specimens. 7 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church social hall, 900 S. Seventh St. Free. 665–5574.

**★Ann Arbor Go Club.** Every Sun. & Thurs. except Dec. 25. Players of all skill levels invited to play what's regarded as the world's most difficult board game. No partner necessary. Boards and stones provided. 7 p.m.–midnight (Thurs.) & 1–6 p.m. (Sun.), Espresso Royale, 322 S. State. Free. 417–5547.

**★Jazz Concert: Pioneer High School.** Performances by the Grammy-winning Pioneer High School Jazz Band and the Be-Bop Spartans, an MSU jazz orchestra directed by Rodney Whitaker. 7 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 610 W. Stadium. Free. 994–2120.

**★"Bare": U-M Basement Arts.** Dec. 1–3. Jason Kovacs directs U-M students in Jon Hartmere and Damon Intrabartolo's rock opera about teens trying to make it through their senior year at a coed Catholic boarding school. 7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 1, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. [basement.studentorgs.umich.edu](http://basement.studentorgs.umich.edu).

**"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": Saline Area Players.** Dec. 1–4. Kara Cardella directs local actors in her theatrical adaptation of the classic holiday song. This humorous version explores Rudolph's formative years and includes audience participation and familiar holiday tunes from "Let It Snow" to "Baby, It's Cold Outside." Stars Abby Wilson, Leo Babcock, Barbara Babcock, Rich Hamann, Jordan Louise Bauman, and Krissa Rumsey. 7 p.m., Stone Arch Arts & Events, 117 S. Ann Arbor St., Saline. Tickets \$8 (seniors age 65 & over and students, \$5; families, \$25)

in advance at [salineareaplayers.org](http://salineareaplayers.org), and at the door. 355–8898.

**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** Nov. 17–20 & 25–27 and Dec. 1–4, 8–11, 15–18, & 20–23. Jon Huffman, co-author of *Club Morocco*, directs this professional company in a revival of his and Encore founder Dan Cooney's popular adaptation of the beloved Frank Capra Christmas film about a good man tested by misfortune. This year's show features some new scenes and musical numbers. Stars Rusty Mewha, Steve DeBruyne, and Liz Griffith. 7 p.m., Encore, 3126 Broad St., Dexter. Tickets \$28 (members & seniors, \$25; groups of 10 or more, \$22) in advance at [theencoretheatre.org](http://theencoretheatre.org) and at the door. 268–6200.

**Ann Arbor Ski Club.** Dec. 1 & 15. All invited to learn about the club's downhill and cross-country ski and snowboarding outings and other social activities. Followed by a "Ski Fashion Show" (Dec. 1) and a holiday party & dance (Dec. 15). Refreshments. Must be 21 or older. 7:30 p.m., Cobblestone Farm barn, 2781 Packard. \$5. 786–2237.

**Israeli Dancing: Jewish Community Center.** Dec. 1, 8, & 15. Dance instructor Cheryl Felt and DJ Amnon Steiner lead a variety of Israeli dances to recorded music. Easy dances and oldies the first hour followed by intermediate dances and requests. Beginners welcome. New dances taught each week. 7:30–10 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 (students, free). 971–0990.

**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** Every Thurs.–Sun. (except Dec. 25), Nov. 10–Jan. 1. See review, p. 74. Tim Rhoze directs Murray Horwitz and Richard Maltby's exuberant 1978 Tony-winning musical revue (with cabaret seating) of songs by early jazz composer-pianist Fats Waller. A mixed cast of men and women sings, dances, and banters its way through such well-known tunes as "Yo' Feet's Too Big," "Honeysuckle Rose," and the title song in a show that captures the flavor of 1930s Harlem. Stars James Bowen, Diviin Huff, Kron Moore, Darrian Ford, and K Edmonds. 7:30 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. \$27 & \$29 (Thurs.), \$32 & \$34 (Fri. & Sun.), \$25 & \$27 (Sat. matinee), \$39 & \$41 (Sat. eve.). \$3 discount for seniors age 60 & over. Tickets available in advance at [performancenetwork.org](http://performancenetwork.org) & by phone, and at the door. \$10 student discount in advance, half-price student tickets at the door only. For reservations, call 663–0681; to charge by phone, call 663–0696.

**★Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Lab Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Performance by these music student ensembles. Program TBA. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764–0594.

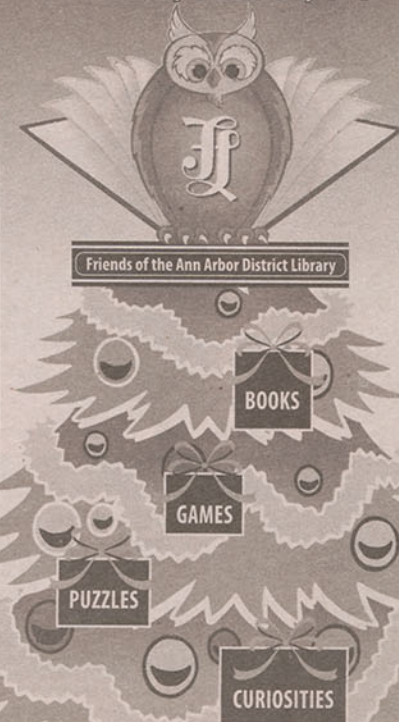
**★"Mad About Chamber Music": Kerrytown Concert House Benefit.** Dec. 1 & 14. Classical music performances by U-M music students. Tonight's performers include pianists Dylan John Perez, Jennifer Ellen Howell, and Faith Elizabeth Loewe; violinists Kazato Inouye, Lindsey Marie Bordner, and Kathryn Esther Wiebe; cellists Ethan Benjamin Young, Jeremy David Crosmer, and Victor Minke Huls; and clarinetist Nonna Karenovna Aroutiounian. Program TBA. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free; donations accepted. Reservations recommended. 769–2999.

**"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** Every Wed.–Sun. (except Nov. 24), Sept. 22–Dec. 17. Guy Sanville directs this revival of actor-playwright Jeff Daniels's hit 1995 comedy, a tall tale set in the Upper Peninsula during deer season. As the Soady family prepare for their annual hunting trip, the oldest boy (now facing middle age) has never bagged a buck and fears he will be the disgrace of the family. His Native American wife gives him a magic potion to overcome his bad luck, and mysterious forces start to take over the Soadys' annual expedition. Cast: Matthew David, Nate Mitchell, Michael Brian Oden, Wayne David Parker, Jim Porterfield, and Rhiannon Ragland. 3 & 8 p.m., Purple Rose Theatre, 137 Park St., Chelsea. Tickets \$25 (Wed. & Thurs.), \$35 (Fri. eves. & weekend matinees), & \$40 (Sat. eves.) in advance at [purplerosetheatre.org](http://purplerosetheatre.org) and by phone. 433–7673.

**"Princess Ida": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society.** Dec. 1–4. John Hill directs this accomplished local town-and-gown company in Gilbert & Sullivan's comic operetta about a feminist princess who rebels against her arranged marriage and retreats to Castle Adamant, where she runs a college for women. The intended bridegroom, Prince Hilarion, and his two best friends disguise themselves as women in order to infiltrate Ida's fortress—meanwhile, Hilarion's father takes Ida's father, an inveterate grumbler, prisoner and proceeds to make the captive king miserable by treating him with the utmost kindness. Cast includes Alexandra Kahn, Lori Gould, Katrina Van Maanen, Alexandra Strother, Amanda O'Toole, Jenna Hane, Imani Mchunu, Jesse Murillo, and David Wolff. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$20 (seniors age 65 & over, \$18; students

## Holiday Sale

SATURDAY, DEC. 10, 10–4  
SUNDAY, DEC. 11, 1–4



**Friends Book Shop**  
Lower Level, Downtown Library  
Book Shop and Multipurpose Room  
343 S. Fifth Avenue  
Items suitable for gift giving:  
books (especially children's), games, puzzles, curiosities  
NO ADMISSION COST  
(734) 302-7774 • [faadl.org](http://faadl.org)

## First United Methodist Church of Ann Arbor

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2**  
Holiday Pipe Organ Showcase Concert  
Downtown, 7:30 pm

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10**  
Cookie Walk to benefit missions  
Downtown, 9 am...until cookies run out!

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11**  
Youth Drama: "A Night in Bethlehem"  
Downtown, 6:30 pm

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**  
**Downtown Christmas Eve Services**  
5 pm Young Children's Service  
7 pm Family Service  
9 pm Communion Service  
11 pm Candlelight Service  
\$2 parking at Liberty Sq. Garage before 7:00 pm; free after 7:00 pm  
**Green Wood Christmas Eve Services**  
5 pm Candlelight Family Service  
8 pm Candlelight Service

**Downtown:** 120 S. State St. at Huron  
Regular Sunday worship at 9:30 & 11:15 am  
**Green Wood:** 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way  
Regular Saturday worship at 5 pm  
[www.fumc-a2.org](http://www.fumc-a2.org) 734.662.4536



133rd season **ums 11/12**

# december

## Handel's Messiah

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra

UMS Choral Union

Jerry Blackstone conductor

Mary Wilson soprano

Meg Bragle mezzo-soprano

Colin Balzer tenor

Joshua Hopkins baritone

Edward Parmentier harpsichord

Saturday \ December 3 \ 8 pm

Sunday \ December 4 \ 2 pm

Hill Auditorium

The Grammy Award-winning UMS Choral Union (2006 "Best Choral Performance" for William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*) launches the holiday season with its signature work, Handel's *Messiah*. An Ann Arbor tradition in the beautiful surroundings of Hill Auditorium, these performances are ultimately the heart and soul of UMS, connecting audiences not only with the talented people on stage, but also with the friends and family who attend each year. Start off your holiday season with a spirited "Hallelujah!"

Sponsored by the **Carl and Isabelle Brauer Fund**.

Media Partners **Michigan Radio 91.7 FM** and **Ann Arbor's 107one**.

## London Philharmonic Orchestra

Vladimir Jurowski conductor

Janine Jansen violin

Tuesday \ December 6 \ 7:30 pm

Hill Auditorium

The London Philharmonic returns for its first appearance since November 2006, this time under the direction of the exciting young conductor Vladimir Jurowski, who succeeded Kurt Masur as the orchestra's principal conductor in 2007. Jurowski conducts Tchaikovsky's rarely-performed Manfred Symphony, which is based on a poem by Lord Byron and the only one of Tchaikovsky's symphonies that is not numbered. Janine Jansen, a 23-year-old violinist who has been a huge star in her native Holland ever since her Concertgebouw debut at the age of 10, makes her UMS debut.

### PROGRAM

Pintscher Towards Osiris (2005)

Mozart Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, K. 219 (1775)

Tchaikovsky Manfred Symphony, Op. 58 (1885)

Media Partners **WGTE 91.3 FM**, **WRCJ 90.9 FM**, and **Detroit Jewish News**.

## Puer Natus Est

### Stile Antico

Wednesday \ December 7 \ 7:30 pm

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

One of the most talked-about UMS events two years ago was the debut of the young British ensemble Stile Antico, which is now firmly established as one of the most original and exciting new groups in the choral music world. Working without a conductor, the 12 members of Stile Antico rehearse and perform as chamber musicians, each contributing artistically to the end result. Their performances have been repeatedly praised for their vitality and commitment, expressive lucidity, and imaginative response to text. For this return engagement, Stile Antico will perform a program of Tudor music for Christmas and Advent. The program is centered on Thomas Tallis' magnificent seven-part "Christmas" mass, written for the combined choirs of the Spanish and English Chapels Royal and first performed in December 1554. The mass is interspersed with contemporaneous liturgical settings for Advent and Christmas, from the perfect miniatures of William Byrd's exquisite Propers for the Fourth Sunday of Advent to Robert White's exuberant setting of the Magnificat and John Sheppard's extraordinary *Verbum Caro*.

Sponsored by **Gary Boren**.

Media Partner **WRCJ 90.9 FM**.



**ums** Call or click for tickets! **734.764.2538** | [www.ums.org](http://www.ums.org)

Hours: Mon-Fri: 9 am to 5 pm, Sat: 10 am to 1 pm.



with ID, \$10) in advance at [brownpapertickets.com/event/198469](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/198469) and by calling (800) 838-3006, and at the door. 647-8436.

**"Fugue": New Theatre Project.** Nov. 30 and Dec. 1-4, 9-11, & 16-18. Luna Alexander directs this local company in local playwright Audra Lord's drama, set in a bleak institutional space, about 4 people recovering from a shared tragic event that resulted in the complete loss of their memories. Cast: Jon Ager, Keith Paul Medelis, Lind Rabin Hammell, Jamie Weeder. 8 p.m., *Mix Performance Space*, 130 W. Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti. Nov. 30 & Dec. 1 previews are pay-what-you-can. Regular admission is \$15 (students & seniors, \$10) in advance at [tickets@thenewtheatreproject.org](http://tickets@thenewtheatreproject.org) and at the door. 645-9776.

**Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Dec. 1-3. This veteran stand-up comic is a frequent performer on cable TV who has also had her own Comedy Central special. Her act blends storytelling with sharp commentary on a mix of momentous and trivial topics. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below *Seva restaurant*). \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$11 (Thurs.) & \$14 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 2 FRIDAY

**\*24th Annual Hometown Holiday: Chelsea Area Chamber of Commerce.** Dec. 2-4. Family activities, including Santa visits and crafts. Gingerbread house displays in shop windows, and luminaria along Main St. in the evening. Merchant sales with entertainment and refreshments at many stores. Highlights include the **tree lighting ceremony and Santa's arrival** (Dec. 2, 6-6:30 p.m., Pierce Park), **free breakfast with Santa** (Dec. 3, 8:30-10:30 a.m., Chelsea Comfort Inn & Village Conference Center), a **Holiday Parade** (Dec. 3, 6 p.m., Main St.), a **Hometown Holiday Concert** (Dec. 4, 3 & 7 p.m., Chelsea Depot) by the Chelsea Chamber Players, and the **Holiday Festival of Lessons and Carols** (Dec. 4, 6:30 p.m., Chelsea Retirement Community Chapel) and more. For a complete schedule of events, see [chelseafestivals.com](http://chelseafestivals.com). 9 a.m.-10 p.m. (Dec. 2 & 3) & noon-7 p.m. (Dec. 4), downtown Chelsea. Free. 476-1175.

**\*"How Title IX Changed the Game: Gender, Families, and Youth Sport": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender.** Talk by University of Southern California sociology and gender studies professor Michael Messner. Noon-1:30 p.m., 3735 U-M Central Campus Recreation Bldg., 401 Washtenaw. Free. 764-9537.

**Advent Noon Recital: First Presbyterian Church.** Dec. 2, 9, & 16. Recitals of seasonal sacred music. Today: Carol Muehlig conducts the church's **Gloria Handbell Choir** in Christmas music. 12:15-12:45 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Donation. 662-4466.

**\*Bridge: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** Every Mon. & Fri. through Dec. 23. All seniors invited to play bridge. Refreshments. 1-3 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

**\*"Tribute to Tagore": U-M Center for South Asian Studies.** Panel discussions and lectures in tribute to Rabindranath Tagore, the venerated Bengali poet and musician who became the first non-European Nobel laureate in 1913. Also, at 2:45 p.m., U-M biostatistics professor **Mousumi Banerjee** performs songs by Tagore, known as *rabindrasangeet*. With tabla accompaniment by **Amit Chatterjee**. 1-6 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0448.

**"Moonlight Madness Craft Show": Saline Community Education.** Juried show and sale of works by more than 150 crafters. Concessions, bake sale, and raffle. 5-11 p.m., Saline Middle School, 7190 N. Maple, Ann Arbor-Saline Rd., Saline. \$2 admission. 429-5922.

**\*"Jorge Luis Borges-travaganza": U-M Residential College.** A multimedia show inspired by 2 of Borges's speculative tales, "The Library of Babel" (about a library that contains every possible book) and "Tlön, Uqbar, Orbis Tertius" (about an imagined world that supersedes reality). Includes an art installation by RC students and invited artists, music by RC faculty and students, performances by local performance artists Patrick Elkins and Amanda Krugliak, and a poetry slam. 5 p.m., RC Keene Auditorium, Benzinger Library, & Art Gallery, East Quad, 701 East University. Free. 763-0176.

**\*Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music.** See 1 Thursday. Today: U-M opera students perform arias and Shakespeare monologues. 5 p.m.

**"3rd Annual KindleFest": Kerrytown District Association.** A holiday sale featuring local artisans and farmers, live music, fire pits to roast s'mores, and a **children's lantern parade** (7 p.m.; lantern pick-up begins at 6:30 p.m.; \$10 for a lantern, \$3 if you bring your own) with carol singing. Pretzels, brats, and

mulled wine available. Tonight is also **"Midnight Madness"** (6 p.m.-midnight) in the Kerrytown Market & Shops, with special holiday sales, live music by the **Joe Summers Gypsy Jazz Quartet**, strolling carolers, treats, and more. 6-10 p.m., *Farmers' Market, Kerrytown*. Free admission. 662-5008.

**Dances of Universal Peace (Sufi Dancing).** All invited to join in song, chant, and circle dances in joyous affirmation of the unity of the world's spiritual traditions. 7-9 p.m., *Friends Meetinghouse*, 1420 Hill. \$5 requested donation. 332-7964.

**\*"Midnight Madness": Main Street Area Association.** Many merchants are open late tonight with special sales. Appearances by **Santa and Miss Washtenaw County**. Sidewalk entertainment includes swordplay stunts by **Ring of Steel Action Theater**, theater by **Center Stage Productions**, the **U-M Women's Glee Club**, the U-M a cappella ensemble **Kopitonez**, the **Huron High School A Cappella Choir**, and juggler **Ben Ruetenik**. Also, **robot caroling** at Liberty Street Robot Supply & Repair (on the hour beginning at 7 p.m.). Santa's Mailbox is accepting letters (postage to North Pole courtesy of the MSAA) Nov. 25-Dec. 19 in front of Lexi's Toy Box (328 S. Ashley; include a return address to receive a response from Santa). 7-9 p.m. (some stores open later), Main Street shopping areas. Free admission. 668-7112.

**\*"Rock and Revolution": Ann Arbor District Library.** Opening reception for this AADL exhibit commemorating the 40th anniversary of the 1971 John Sinclair Freedom Rally. ClassicPosters.com and *All Music Guide* founder Michael Erlewine presents an illustrated talk on **"Michigan Rock Posters in the Sixties and Seventies,"** photojournalist Leni Sinclair and renowned poster designer Gary Grimshaw discuss their book *Detroit Rocks: A Pictorial History of Motor City Rock and Roll, 1965-1975*, and AADL staff preview the library's new **Freeing John Sinclair website**, available at [aadl.org](http://aadl.org) beginning Dec. 9. Refreshments. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

**\*"Interarts Performance Cabaret": U-M School of Art & Design.** Interarts majors showcase their performance art, dance, video, and sound works. 7 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Studio 2, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 936-0671.

**"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan.** Dec. 2-4. Wendi DuBois directs this Chelsea-based troupe of young dancers in a production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. The matinees are preceded at 12:30 p.m. by a **Sugar Plum Fairy Tea** (\$12 in advance only) featuring cast visits and photos, and refreshments. 7 p.m., Chelsea High School, 740 N. Freer, Chelsea. \$18 (students and age 60 & over, \$12) in advance at [youthdancetheatre.org](http://youthdancetheatre.org) and at the door. Groups of 10 or more, \$10 in advance only. 475-3070.

**"Go, Dog, Go": EMU Theater Department.** Dec. 2-4 & 7-11. EMU theater professor Patricia Moore Zimmer directs EMU students in Steven Dietz, Allison Gregory, and Michael Koerner's adaptation of P.D. Eastman's children's book about a group of highly mobile dogs who operate cars and other conveyances in pursuit of work, play, and a final mysterious goal: a dog party. A family-oriented production for theatergoers age 6 & up. Note: The Dec. 7 & 8 morning matinees are aimed at school groups, including home schoolers. 7 p.m., EMU Quirk Theater, Ford St. (off Lowell from Huron River Dr.), Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students, \$12; kids age 12 & under, \$7) in advance and at the door. 487-2282.

**"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": Saline Area Players.** See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

**\*"Bare": U-M Basement Arts.** See 1 Thursday. 7 & 11 p.m.

**"Disco Night": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** All invited to skate to 70s disco music. Prizes for best costume. 7:15-8:45 p.m., Buhr Park Ice Rink, 2751 Packard. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 794-6235.

**\*"An Organist's Christmas": American Guild of Organists.** Local organists Timothy Huth, Timothy Tikker, and Naki Sung Kripfgans perform solo works. Also, carol singing with organ accompaniment. 7:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church, 120 S. State. Free. [AnnArborAGO.org](http://AnnArborAGO.org).

**"Percussion Concussion": U-M Groove.** This high-energy U-M student ensemble performs playful and popular programs that blend percussion, comedy, and choreography. They play both traditional instruments and a wide variety of nontraditional ones that include everything from propane tanks and trash cans to toothbrushes and knickknacks. Opening act is the U-M tap dance ensemble **Rhythm**. 7:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$8 (students, \$5) in advance at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com), and at the door. To charge by phone, call 800-745-3000.

THROUGH FEBRUARY 5, 2012

# FACE OF OUR TIME

JACOB AUE SOBOL JIM GOLDBERG ZANELE MUHOLI DANIEL SCHWARTZ RICHARD MISRACH



JOIN EXHIBITION CURATOR AND UMMA DIRECTOR

Sandra Phillips and Joseph Rosa

UMMA DIALOGUES: PHOTOGRAPHY PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Sunday, December 4, 2 pm | Helmut Stern Auditorium

Face of Our Time: Jacob Aue Sobol, Jim Goldberg, Zanele Muholi, Daniel Schwartz, Richard Misrach is organized by the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art. Generous support is provided by Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council.

Face of Our Time at UMMA is made possible in part by the Lois Zenkel Photographic Exhibitions Fund, the University of Michigan Health System, and the University of Michigan Office of the Provost and CEW Frances and Sydney Lewis Visiting Leaders Fund.



Zanele Muholi, *Nomonde Mbusi*, Berea, Johannesburg, 2007; gelatin silver print; Collection of the artist, courtesy Michael Stevenson Gallery; © Zanele Muholi

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Measure for Measure  
A Man's Choral Society

STEVEN R. LORENZ, DIRECTOR



Holiday Concert

With The MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S GLEE CLUB

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2011  
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**Rebroadcast on Sat., December 24, 9am-2pm**  
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**On Air** at 1290 WLBY  
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## Events at the Institute for the Humanities University of Michigan December 2011

All events are **free**  
and **open to the**  
**public**

734.936.3518

[humin@umich.edu](mailto:humin@umich.edu)



Photo: plant

### Conferences

**Dec 2-3** — 2011 HASTAC V International Conference on Digital Scholarly Communication. Two-day, campus-wide event.

### In the Gallery

Exhibitions are held in the Institute for the Humanities gallery, 202 S. Thayer, except where noted. Gallery hours are M-F 9am-5pm, Sat 11am-3pm. Galleries are closed Dec. 23-Jan. 2.

**Dec 1 - Jan 14** — *Loops*, 3D digital projection created by **Paul Kaiser**, the 2011 Kidder Resident in the Arts, and **OpenEnded Group** based on their collaboration with **Merce Cunningham**

**Dec 1 - Jan 10** — *plant*, opening and premiere of new work exploring the abandoned Packard plant in Detroit. Created by **Paul Kaiser** and **OpenEnded Group**. Exhibition is located in the Duderstadt Center Gallery, 2281 Bonisteel Blvd. (U-M north campus). Gallery hours: M-F noon-6pm

### Author's Forum

Author's Forum events are held in the Hatcher Graduate Library, library gallery, room 100

**Dec 7** — *Ghost Writers: Us Haunting Them*. A Conversation with **Keith Taylor**, **Laura Kasischke**, and **Other Ghost Writers**

### Lectures

**Dec 1** — **Paul Kaiser** Lecture, "Drawing on Childhood: A 3D Presentation," School of Art & Design's Penny W. Stamps Distinguished Speaker Series, 5:10pm, Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty

### Brown Bag Lectures

Brown Bag lectures are held on Tuesdays in 202 S. Thayer, room 2022, at 12:30pm

**Dec 6** — **Ken Kiesler**, music, and **Barbara Nissman**, pianist; "Remembering Alberto Ginastera"

**Dec 13** — **Paul Courant**, information, public policy, economics; *Featuring the Digital Humanities*, "Changes in Communication that Derive from New Information Technologies"

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**34th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University.** Dec. 2-4. Elegantly elaborate medieval English pageant celebrating Christ's birth with a blend of religious pageantry and secular pomp. Brian Altevogt directs a large cast of Concordia students, faculty, and staff as Beefeaters, hunters, jesters, and other court characters, as well as traditional Christmas shepherds and magi. With musical narration, congregational singing, and a full orchestra. This hugely popular event sells out in advance every year. 7:30 p.m., *Concordia University Chapel of the Holy Trinity*, 4090 Geddes at Earhart. Tickets \$8-\$15 in advance at the Kreft Center Box Office and (if available) at the door. 995-4612.

**"Swan Lake": EMU Dance Program.** EMU dance students perform Tchaikovsky's beloved tragic ballet about a prince who falls in love with the swan-maiden Odette. The score is performed live by the **EMU Symphony Orchestra**. An abridged version of this program is presented earlier today at 10 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. in 2 free 50-minute **children's concerts** (reservations required at 487-2448). 7:30 p.m., *Pease Auditorium*, W. Cross at College Place, EMU campus, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$10 (seniors & students, \$8; children under 12, \$6) in advance and at the door. 487-2282.

**★Advanced Study Group: Rudolf Steiner Study Circle of Ann Arbor.** Dec. 2, 16, & 30. All invited to join an ongoing discussion of Rudolf Steiner's *An Outline of Occult Science*. Familiarity with Steiner's basic ideas required. 8-9:30 p.m., *Rudolf Steiner House*, 1923 Geddes (Nov. 18). Free. 944-4903.

**★"Spirit-Lifting Gospel Get-Down": Downtown Home & Garden.** Holiday gospel concert by **Our Own Thing Chorale**, a popular local chorus directed by U-M music professor emeritus Willis Patterson. 8-10 p.m., *Downtown Home & Garden*, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662-8122.

**U-M Harmonettes.** This peppy all-female student a cappella group performs contemporary and classic R&B and pop songs, such as "Kaleidoscope Heart," "Chain of Fools," "Before He Cheats," "This Will Be (An Everlasting Love)," and others. 8 p.m., *Michigan Union Pendleton Room*. \$8 (tentative; students, \$5). [harmonettes@umich.edu](mailto:harmonettes@umich.edu).

**★Fall Concert: U-M Headnotes.** This a cappella ensemble of law students performs jazz, popular, and traditional songs in 4-part harmony. 8 p.m., *U-M Lawyer's Club Lounge*, 551 S. State. Free. [umlsheadnotesboard@umich.edu](mailto:umlsheadnotesboard@umich.edu).

**"A Holiday Concert": Measure for Measure.** This local men's chorus, directed by Pioneer High School choir director Steve Lorenz, and the **U-M Men's Glee Club** perform separate programs of holiday music. The 2 groups also come together to sing Wendell Whalum's arrangement of "Betelehemu." 8 p.m., *St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church*, 2250 E. Stadium. \$15 (kids age 12 & under, seniors, & students with ID, \$12) in advance and at the door. 649-7664.

**★Jo Pie Whyld: METAL Design & Fabrication Studio.** This local Americana singer-songwriter performs songs from her debut CD, *Songs for Noah*. 8 p.m., *METAL*, 220 Felch. Free. (800) 613-6385.

**Planet D Nonet: Canterbury House.** This large Detroit ensemble, a self-styled "space-age swing band" led by veteran drummer RJ Spangler, is joined by trombonist and vocalist **Vince Chandler** in music by Sun Ra and others. 8-10 p.m., *Canterbury House*, 721 E. Huron St. \$5. 764-3162.

**Don White: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church).** This veteran singer-songwriter from Lynn, MA, writes sharp-witted songs about everyday life that blend pathos, humor, and biting satire, and his live shows feature a lot of impromptu storytelling and comedy. His fans include Christine Lavin and Livingston Taylor, and he's released several acclaimed CDs. Desserts & coffee available. 8 p.m., *FUMC Green Wood Church*, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way. \$17 (kids age 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 665-8558.

**Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department.** Dec. 2 & 3. U-M dance majors present an evening of multimedia collaborations with student and faculty composers, musicians, theatrical designers, sculptors, photographers, vocalists, and creative writers. 8 p.m. (doors open at 7 p.m.), *U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio*, 1310 North University Ct. \$5 at the door only. 763-5460.

**"Barefoot in the Park": U-M Residential College Players.** Dec. 2-4. RC students present Neil Simon's comedy about a newlywed couple—he's a straitlaced lawyer, she's a free spirit—during their first week of marriage, which includes a visit from the wife's loopy mother. 8 p.m., *RC Keene Theater*, East Quad, 701 East University. \$5 (students, \$3). 647-4354.

**"Princess Ida": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"Fugue": New Theatre Project.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 1 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

**International Folk Dancing: Ann Arbor Folk-dancers.** Dec. 2 & 16. Balkan and Israeli dancing to recorded music (Dec. 2) & live music by **Ethnic Connection** (Dec. 16). The Dec. 2 dance begins with a lesson. 8-11 p.m., *Gretchen's House*, 1580 Dhu Varren. \$5 (Dec. 2; students, \$3) & \$10 (Dec. 16; students, \$5). 995-0011.

**Swing Dance Party: Ann Arbor Swing Dance Association/Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Every Fri. Lindy hop, East Coast swing, Charleston, blues, and Balboa dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner needed. Preceded at 8 p.m. by beginning lessons. 9 p.m.-midnight, *Dakota Bldg.*, 1785 W. Stadium. \$5 (includes lessons; students with ID, \$3). 417-9857.

## 3 SATURDAY

**"Dr. Porter Synchronized Skating Classic": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club.** Dec. 3 & 4. More than 150 teams from the U.S., Canada, Europe, and Asia compete in the largest synchronized team skating competition in the world. 7:40 a.m.-10:55 p.m. (Dec. 3) & 8 a.m.-4:15 p.m. (Dec. 4), *Ann Arbor Ice Cube*, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$8 (students & seniors, \$6); \$15 for both days (students & seniors, \$12). 213-6768.

**"Bird Hike": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs.** A park naturalist, either Jennifer Hollenbeck or Raejean Uehline, leads a hike through a variety of habitats to discover what bird species are in the park. Bring binoculars and a field guide. 8 a.m., *Hudson Mills activity center*, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$3. Preregistration required. \$5 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

**★"Home for the Holidays": Think Dexter First.** Activities begin with **breakfast with Santa** (8:30-10:30 a.m., *Loreen's Cafe*). Santa is also at the **downtown gazebo** (11 a.m.-4 p.m.), along with some other surprise characters, to talk with kids. At 4 p.m. are the **5K Holiday Hustle** (\$29 before Dec. 1 & \$35 race weekend for adults, \$24 before Dec. 1 and \$30 race weekend for age 17 & under), a competitive 5-km run/walk with awards for the top 3 finishers in various age categories, and **Foresters Frozen 1-Mile Fun Run** (\$24 before Dec. 1 & \$30 race weekend for adults, \$15 before Dec. 1 and \$20 race weekend for age 17 & under), with registration available at [runholiday5k.com](http://runholiday5k.com). Events conclude at 6 p.m. with **community caroling** in Monument Park around lit Christmas trees. *Note:* There are also **holiday craft bazaars** (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) at St. Andrew's Church, Dexter Senior Center, and Dexter Area Museum, and a Christmas celebration (noon-6 p.m.) at Gordon Hall. 8:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., *downtown Dexter*. Free admission. 476-1175.

**★Annual Holiday Bazaar and Children's Faire: Rudolf Steiner School.** An artisan market, a toy room, storytelling and puppet theater, and activities, including jump rope winding and candle dipping. Musical performances, raffle, and refreshments. Preceded on Dec. 2 by an adults-only **preview night** (5-8 p.m.). 9 a.m.-3 p.m., *Rudolf Steiner School*, 2775 Newport Rd. Free admission. 995-4141.

**28th Annual Juried Art & Craft Festival: Ann Arbor City Club.** Show and sale of arts and crafts. Also, a sale of greenery, including wreaths, roping, and poinsettias. 9 a.m.-4 p.m., *AACC*, 1830 Washtenaw. \$3 admission. 645-5718.

**★"Dinosaur Discovery Day": U-M Exhibit Museum.** This family-oriented dinosaur program is highlighted by **"Digging Dinosaurs"** (11 a.m. and 1 & 3 p.m.), a presentation by Midland paleontologist Joseph "Paleo Joe" Kchodl, author of the children's book *Hidden Dinosaurs* and coauthor of the *Dinosaur Detective Club* series, on how dinosaur fossils are formed and the stories they tell. Also, a fossil dig, a dinosaur craft, screening of dinosaur films, and other family-oriented demonstrations and activities. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., *U-M Exhibit Museum*, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764-0478.

**★"Ban the Box: How to Keep Washtenaw Returning Prisoners from Getting a Raw Deal": Gray Panthers of Huron Valley.** Talk by Michigan Prisoner Re-entry Initiative director Mary King. Refreshments. The program begins with coffee & socializing. 9:45 a.m.-noon, *U-M Turner Senior Resource Center*, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 973-5593.

**★"Santa Visits Kerrytown": Kerrytown Market & Shops.** Dec. 3, 10, 17, & 24. Appearance by Santa and live musical performances by local students, musicians, and choral groups. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., *Kerrytown Market & Shops*. Free. 662-5008.



# poetry

## Lizzie Hutton

### From where I stand

For the past fifteen years or more, New Issues Press, associated with Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, has been doing the essential work of finding new poets, making sure their work gets into print, and getting the books out in the world so they can be found by the small audience that looks for these things. Over the years it has published several books by poets working in Ann Arbor and has now added a small wonder to the list. *She'd Waited Millennia*, by Lizzie Hutton, is a memorable first book built around a strong ear for the musicality of language; an eye for the vivid remembered detail of childhood, and a willingness to come to admirable philosophic conclusions about experience.

Hutton starts her book by re-creating the glorious solipsism of childhood. Early on she writes:

*The inflexible language of girlhood,  
see, combined*

*with my various shynesses, meant*

*my insides seemed profounder than  
anything I'd do—*

*it seemed I'd done enough just by  
having been invented.*

As promising as this hard self-knowledge is, Hutton is certainly not content to stay in it. She can write wonderful poems about a first sexual encounter—and, particularly, poems that turn on startling and troubling images from what appear to have been some childhood time spent in India—but she certainly isn't content to stay in the past. Thoughts and images about her marriage and her children are always ready to take the poet and her readers out of the individual experience and connect with the larger shared experience of the world.



She writes vividly of natural images, as in her description of a milkweed pod "now broken open echoing // like the belly / of a lute // that lets loose some stray / wind-born notes, // the source now shredded, summer-torn." Although we can't re-create the look of that poem as it dances irregularly around the page, the words capture some sense of its play. But I think Lizzie Hutton and the poems in this first book are best when she combines her strengths of sound and description to come to some understanding of the place she is writing from. "Marriage has," she writes:

*a beautiful, thickety sameness,  
like the barely*

*dripping constant rain in our boxed  
backyard, its wet*

*branches with its few clinging leaves  
spiraling slowly in*

*and out of being visible and lit, from  
where I stand.*

At first glance that last phrase—that insistence that marriage is seen from one place by one person—might seem unnecessary. But on second thought, and remembering all the poems around, I think that it is essential.

Lizzie Hutton reads from *She'd Waited Millennia* in Room 3222, Angell Hall, on December 6.

—Keith Taylor

**"Introduction to the Art of Pressed Flower Cards":** U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Beth Gilford demonstrates how to make greeting cards with pressed flowers. Followed by a chance to make 4 cards to take home. 10 a.m.–noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. \$8 materials fee. Preregistration required. 647-7600.

**Holiday Sale:** Ann Arbor Potters Guild. Dec. 3 & 4. A popular annual sale held in a heated tent outdoors. Some 40 local artists offer a large selection of functional and decorative ceramics and Christmas ornaments. Also, a kids area with gifts priced for their budgets. 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Potters Guild, 201 Hill. Free admission. 663-4970.

**2nd Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Show:** Ann Arbor Women Artists. Show and sale of works by AAWA members. 10 a.m.–3 p.m., Polo Fields-Washtenaw, 2955 Packard, Ypsilanti. Free admission. 975-2937.

**"Christmas on the Farm and at Dewey School":** Waterloo Area Farm Museum. This German immigrant pioneer homestead comes alive with the sights, sounds, and smells of a rural 1880s Michigan Christmas. Also, the log house features 1840s décor. Singers perform traditional holiday songs. Docent-guided tours of the 2-story brick farmhouse and of the one-room Dewey School. Refreshments. 10 a.m.–4 p.m. (Dec. 3) & noon–4 p.m. (Dec. 4), Waterloo Area Farm Museum, 9998 Waterloo Rd. (left off Clear Lake Rd. from I-94 exit 153), Chelsea. \$4 admission (seniors age 62 & over, \$3; kids ages 5–17, \$2; age 4 & under, free). (517) 596-2254.

**\*Christmas Party:** Downtown Home & Garden. Santa is on hand to talk to kids, give them a Christmas orange, and take their Christmas lists. Free roasted

chestnuts, eggnog, cider, and, while they last, smidgens of delicious smoked goose right from the store's Big Green Egg smoker. 10 a.m.–1 p.m., Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley. Free. 662-8122.

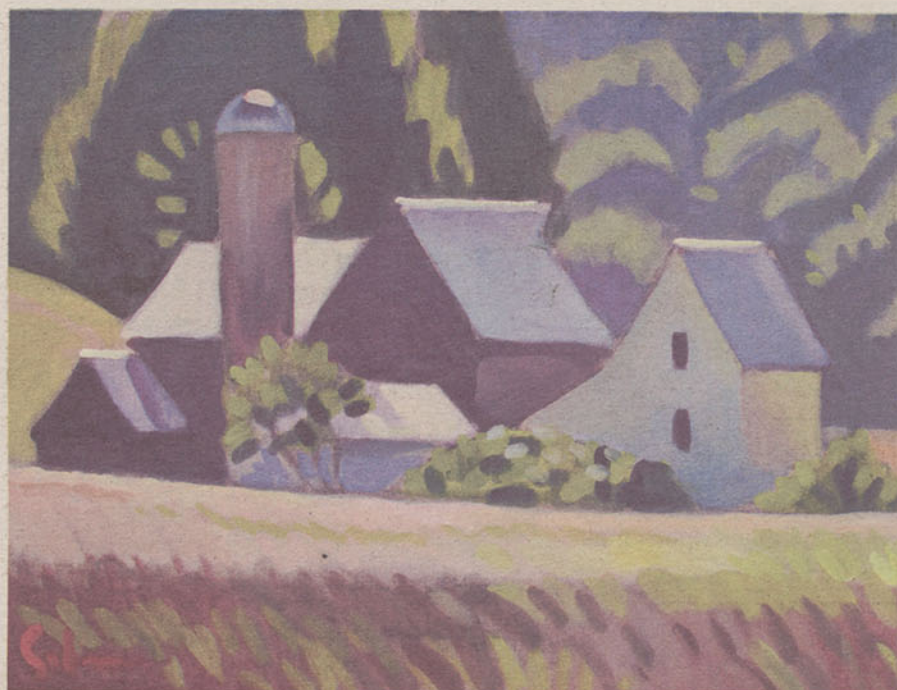
**\*"Music and Motion: Dancing with Babies":** Ann Arbor District Library. Local early childhood educator Gari Stein, director of Music for Little Folks, presents a program of singing and dancing for babies through age 5 (accompanied by an adult). 10–10:40 a.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

**\*"Vedanta: A Joyful Presence in Our Lives":** Ann Arbor Vedanta. Talk and guided meditation led by Swami Atmajnanananda, a minister at the Vedanta Center in Washington, D.C. 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Ann Arbor Friends Meeting, 1420 Hill. Free, but donations accepted. Preregistration required by email or phone. a2vedanta@gmail.com, 223-5615.

**\*Remote-Controlled Car Racing:** Washtenaw RC Raceway. Dec. 3 & 17. One of the largest regular gatherings of RC racers in the country features off-road dirt-track racing for stock and modified model electric trucks and buggies. Spectators welcome. Food concessions. 10:30 a.m.–midnight, Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Doors open at 8 a.m. Free admission. \$16 to race. (313) 565-2815.

**Children's Holiday Party:** Kempf House Center for Local History. With music and other children's entertainment and goodie bags. Refreshments. 10:30–11:30 a.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. \$5 per child. 994-4898.

**\*"Saturday Morning Physics":** U-M Physics Department. Popular series of talks, aimed at gen-



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**Saturday, December 10, 2011**  
4 pm • Bethlehem United Church of Christ

**SING** your favorite holiday songs with Santa and your A<sup>2</sup>SO family.

**LISTEN** as Santa reads 'Twas the Night Before Christmas.

**ENJOY** cider and holiday cookies as you mingle with family and friends.

**SMILE** for your picture with Santa! A free snapshot just in time for holiday cards.

**Guests A<sup>2</sup>SO Flutist Penelope Fischer, the Arbor Flutes, and The Pioneers**

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eral audiences, by U-M and visiting scholars. Today: U-M math professor Divakar Viswanath on "Science on a Trillion Transistors." 10:30 a.m., 170 Dennison, 500 Church. Free. 764-4437.

★"Wonderful and Unusual Gifts": Nature's Expressions. Dec. 3 & 4. Show and sale of crystalline mineral specimens, fossils, shells, mounted butterflies and other insects, and more. 11 a.m.-5 p.m., 3443 Daleview Dr. (off N. Maple Rd. north of Huron River Dr.). Free. 994-3048.

★Children's Storytime: Nicola's Books. Every Sat. An experienced storyteller spins yarns for kids age 7 & under. 11 a.m., Nicola's Books, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★Children's Storytime: Barnes & Noble. Every Sat. Storytelling programs and occasional craft activities for kids. 11 a.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★"Storytime at the Museum": UMMA. U-M student docents read stories related to the art on display. For kids ages 4-7 accompanied by a parent. 11 a.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763-UMMA.

"Fit for a King: Croissants, Crowns, and Cornets": Kerrytown Concert House Croissant Concert. A popular holiday tradition featuring Today's Brass Quintet, an ensemble of area professional musicians that today performs royalty-themed pop, classic, and holiday tunes. Members are French hornist Alan Taplin, trombonist Brian Robson, tubist Joseph DeMarsh, and trumpeters David Ammer and Jean Moorehead Libs. Croissants, coffee, & juice. 11 a.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. \$15-\$30 (students, \$10). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

U-M Exhibit Museum Planetarium. Every Sat. & Sun. (except Dec. 24 & 25) and Dec. 27-30. Four different audiovisual planetarium shows. *The Sky Tonight* (11:30 a.m. Sat. & Dec. 27-30; 1:30 p.m. Sat., Sun., & Dec. 27-30; and 3:30 p.m. Sat.) is an exploration of the current night sky. *Sun, Earth, and Moon* (12:30 p.m. Sat.) explores the reasons the constellations in the night sky change throughout the year and the moon changes its phase and place in the sky. *Natural Selection: Darwin's Mystery of Mysteries* (2:30 p.m. Sat. & Sun.) explores the centerpiece of Darwin's theory of evolution. *Zula Patrol: Under the Weather* (12:30 p.m. Dec. 27-30) is an animated exploration of weather, both terrestrial and interplanetary. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30, 1:30 & 2:30 p.m., U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. \$5. 764-0478.

U-M Men's Basketball vs. Iowa State. The U-M also has games this month against Arkansas-Pine Bluff (Dec. 13, 7 p.m.), Alabama A&M (Dec. 17, noon), Bradley (Dec. 22, 6:30 p.m.), and Penn St. (Dec. 29, 7:30 p.m.). Noon, Crisler Arena. \$5-\$22. 764-0247.

★German Family Christmas: Kempf House Center for Local History. Dec. 3, 4, 10, & 11. This restored 19th-century Greek Revival home is decked out with a traditional tree and decorations and exhibits reflecting a typical early 20th-century German American celebration of Christmas. Christmas cookies. 1-4 p.m., Kempf House, 312 S. Division. Free; donations welcome. 994-4898.

"Make a Gingerbread House": Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Dec. 3 & 10. Demo by a Whole Foods staffer. Followed by a chance to make your own gingerbread house. 2 p.m., Cranbrook Whole Foods Market, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village. \$19.99 gingerbread house kit fee. Preregistration required. 997-7500.

★Ann Arbor Juggling Arts Club. Every Sat. All invited to practice their juggling skills. Beginners welcome. Indoor location TBA in case of inclement weather. 2-4 p.m., U-M Diag. Free. 761-1115.

"Graduation Ball": Ypsilanti Area Dancers. Dec. 3 & 4. This company of more than 60 dancers ages 6-24 performs David Lichine's 1940 comic ballet about a dance at a Viennese young ladies' college. The program also includes a traditional short *Pas de Quatre* and a performance by the Sole Full of Rhythm tap dance company. 2 & 7 p.m., Ypsilanti High School Auditorium, 2095 Packard. Tickets \$18 (kids and students, \$12) in advance at seatyourself.biz/yad, Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium), Randazzo Dance Studio (4569 Washtenaw), and at the door. 417-2596.

"Go, Dog, Go": EMU Theater Department. See 2 Friday. 2 p.m.

★Pittsfield Open Band: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. All musicians invited for a contra dance music open jam. Bring Judi Morningstar's *The Ruffwater Fakebook*, Susan Songer's *The Portland Collection*, and Bill Matthiesen's *The Waltz Book* if you have them. 3-6 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.), Saline. Free. 994-9307.

★"Major Works and Minor Miracles": Ann Arbor Civic Chorus. Linda Jones directs this 75-member local chorus in works by Mozart, Scarlatti, Brahms, Effinger, Pfautsch, Tichelli, and Dickau.

Accompanist is Ted Wyman. 3 p.m., Forsythe Middle School, 1655 Newport. Free. 717-7581.

★In Good Company African American Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to join a discussion of *My Bloody Life: The Making of a Latin King*, Reymundo Sanchez's memoir about his harrowing childhood and subsequent life as a gang member. 4 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★Kids Open Stage: Oz's Music Environment. Kids of all ages and musical abilities are invited to play, sing, or just observe. Preceded at 3 p.m. by a kids drum circle (\$10) hosted by Oz's owner Steve Osburn. Drums provided. 4-5 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. Free; donations welcome. 662-8283.

★Opera Workshop: U-M School of Music. See 1 Thursday. 5 p.m.

★Winter Concert: U-M Good News. This coed Christian a cappella ensemble performs songs by Michael Jackson, Switchfoot, The Afters, Needtobreathe, and other artists. 7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium A. Free. gnsteam@umich.edu.

"15th Annual Evening of Sacred Song: A Seasonal Celebration of Peace, Community, and Spirit": Sacred Song. See review, p. 59. This ad hoc local vocal ensemble presents an evening of songs from numerous spiritual traditions worldwide. The concert features works performed with and without instrumental accompaniment. Also, sing-alongs. Performers include LaRon Williams, Yarrow Halstead, Robin Wilson, Gae Winn, Laura Machida, Faye Askew-King, Barbara Stahler-Sholk, Edie Lewis, Cassandra Compton-Montgomery, and others. Reception follows. Proceeds benefit SOS Community Services. 7 p.m., Vineyard Church, 2275 Platt. \$15 in advance, \$20 (or what you can afford to pay) at the door. Kids under age 12, free. 369-4977.

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": Saline Area Players. See 1 Thursday. 1, 3:30, & 7 p.m.

"The Nutcracker": Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. See 2 Friday. 2 & 7 p.m.

★"Bare": U-M Basement Arts. See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

"Drum 4 Wellness Circle": Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth. All invited to join a drum circle. Bring a drum or use one provided. 7:30-9 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$5 suggested donation. 480-1219.

34th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University. See 2 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

"56th Annual Study Break Concert": U-M Friars. This self-styled "crack squad of supercrooners" is an a cappella octet drawn from the Men's Glee Club. 8 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. \$6 in advance and at the door. ummgc.org/friars.

1st Saturday Contra: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. With live music. All dances taught; no partner needed. 8 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10 (members, \$9; students, \$5). 769-1052.

"Milonga Picante": U-M Michigan Argentine Tango Club. Dec. 3 & 17. Tango dancing to music spun by a DJ. Note: People not affiliated with the U-M must arrive before 9 p.m. 8 p.m.-midnight, Michigan League Vandenberg Room. \$10 (members, \$5). umich.edu/~umtango.

Toyland Dance Party: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by a DJ. Cash bar. 8 p.m.-midnight, Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (members, \$6). 578-3664.

Amazin' Blue: U-M University Activities Center. The oldest U-M coed a cappella ensemble performs a mix of jazz, pop, and country songs, from John Legend's "Ordinary People" to Arcade Fire's "Wake Up" and the Temptations' "Just My Imagination." 8 p.m., East Hall, 530 Church St. \$12 (students, \$7). umuac.org/amazin.

"133rd Annual Handel's Messiah": University Choral Union (University Musical Society). Dec. 3 & 4. Jerry Blackstone directs the Choral Union, harpsichordist Edward Parmentier, and members of the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra in Handel's beloved oratorio. The soloists, all established professionals with national or international reputations, are soprano Mary Wilson, mezzo-soprano Meg Bragle, tenor Colin Balzer, and baritone Joshua Hopkins. The Choral Union *Messiah*, featuring a thunderous sing-along of the "Hallelujah" Chorus, has been an Ann Arbor tradition ever since organist (and U-M president) Henry Frieze led an impromptu community chorus in the spring of 1879, a performance that led to the formation of both the Choral Union and the UMS. On Sunday, the Pioneer High School String Quartet performs holiday music preceding the *Messiah* and during intermission. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$36 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office & ums.org, and (if available) at

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**Saturday December 3rd**  
**9 am - 3 pm**

\*Adult only preview night is back! Friday 5 - 8 pm

Featuring activities that warm the heart, including:

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# classical music

## Ginastera's Piano Concertos

*Exactly what a music school ought to do*

There are many things a school of music ought to do, high among them preparing performers, producing concerts, training scholars, holding discussions, and disseminating information.

But if you ask me, the top thing a school of music ought to do is serve the music, and from that point of view the U-M School of Music's December extravaganza celebrating the music of Argentinean modernist composer Alberto Ginastera is exactly the sort of thing a music school ought to do.

Being Argentina's top twentieth-century classical composer doesn't mean Ginastera is well known here. But once you hear his uniquely exhilarating fusion of classical forms with its blazing colors, fiery melodies, fierce harmonies, and particularly its sensuous rhythms, you never forget it.

The extravaganza's central event will be the first performance of all three of Ginastera's piano concertos in one concert in Hill Auditorium on Saturday, December 10, with the University Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Kenneth Kiesler and U-M alum Barbara Nissman as the soloist.

Nissman, a bravura pianist with charisma to burn, has been associated with Ginastera's music since she was a student here and played the First Piano Concerto with the composer in the audience in 1970. She met him afterwards, they hit it off musically, and he later wrote his Third Piano Sonata—his final work—for her.

Most music fans of a certain age and disposition likely know Ginastera's Piano Concerto No. 1 from 1961, or at least its finale: the diabolical *Toccata concertata* later transformed into "Toccata" on Emerson, Lake & Palmer's *Brain Salad Surgery* LP. And at least some classical music fans already know his Concerto No. 2 from 1971, though only in the drastically revised form



Ginastera and Nissman in 1981

the premiere was presented in, of all places, Indianapolis. This concert will feature the premiere of Ginastera's original version prepared from the score given to Nissman by the composer.

Almost nobody knows Ginastera's *Concierto Argentino*, his Concerto No. 0 from 1935, for the simple reason that he wrote it when he was nineteen, heard it performed, and then withdrew it before publication. Nissman found the manuscript years later in Philadelphia, where it was part of a trove of South American music collected by the WPA, and while the composer thought of revising it for her, he never did. Ginastera's late widow granted Nissman the right to make its first recording and the exclusive right to perform the work in its original form.

This being a U-M concert, naturally there will be ancillary events: a Nissman master class, a brown-bag lecture, and an all-Ginastera concert by the Percussion Ensemble and the University Philharmonia Orchestra on Friday, December 9. The master class may be intense, the lecture may be informative, but the percussion concert ought to be a blast.

—James Leonard

the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

★**"Refracting the Fourth Wall": U-M Contemporary Directions Ensemble/UMMA.** Christopher James Lees conducts this adventurous music student ensemble in a program of contemporary works exploring the effects of depth, color, and shadow on the listener. 8 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0594.

**Dance and Related Arts Concert: U-M Dance Department.** See 2 Friday. 8 p.m.

**"Princess Ida": U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society.** See 1 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

**"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

**"Barefoot in the Park": U-M Residential College Players.** See 2 Friday. 8 p.m.

**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**"Fugue": New Theatre Project.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

**Jackie Kashian: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 1 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

**"Serious about Salsa" Latin Dance Party: danceRevolution Dance Studio.** Dec. 3 & 17. High-energy dance party with salsa, merengue, bachata, and cha-cha dancing to music spun by a DJ. No partner necessary. 9 p.m.–1 a.m., Phoenix Center, 220 S. Main (above Elmo's). \$5. (313) 808-0358.

## 4 SUNDAY

**"Gift-Fest 2011": Ann Arbor Artists' Collective 13th Annual Holiday Show.** Show and sale of original works by 25 local artists, including jew-

elry, ceramics, glass, fiber, paper, baskets, paintings, and more. Refreshments & raffle. 10 a.m.–4 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). Free admission. 272-2901.

★**"Buddhism": Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** Every Sun. except Dec. 25. Talk by Gelek Rimpoche, an incarnate lama from Tibet who lives in Ann Arbor, or one of his students. Dec. 4: James Jorahl on "Why Talk about Suffering?" Dec. 11: Chris Branson on "Busy Laziness." Dec. 18: Gelek Rimpoche on "The Power of Imagination and the Tantric Path." 10–11 a.m., Jewel Heart Center, 1129 Oak Valley Dr. (between Ann Arbor–Saline Rd. & Ellsworth). Free. 994-3387.

★**Mature Singles: First Presbyterian Church.** Every Sun. except Dec. 25. A weekly program open to all single adults interested in contemporary Christian topics, new ideas, personal growth, and social and physical activities. Dec. 4: AATA Local Advisory Council vice-chair Clark Charnetski discusses "The Future of Trains and Transit in Michigan." Dec. 11: St. Joseph Mercy Hospital dietitian Elizabeth Breneau on "Healthy Eating." Dec. 18: All invited to a festive Christmas potluck. 11 a.m., First Presbyterian Church, Curtis Room, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466, ext. 43.

**"Country Christmas": Cobblestone Farm Association.** Re-creation of mid-19th-century Christmases, with period decorations, cooking on the woodstove, and live holiday music. Also, a chance to visit with Father Christmas and make period holiday crafts to take home, along with display of a 6-foot scale model of a medieval trebuchet (a type of catapult) that, weather permitting, can be used to hurl snowballs. Costumed interpreters provide tours of the restored 1844 Ticknor-Campbell farmhouse and its grounds, and this year each room of the farmhouse showcases the work of a different local florist. Noon–4 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard (next to

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 Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> 7:30pm  
**"A Festival of Lessons and Carols"**  
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 December  
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"I'd like a forever family"



**Tiny Tim**  
"I'd like a child to love me"

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## Graduation Ball

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Soul Full Rhythm

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Sat. Dec. 3rd

Matinee at 2:00 and evening  
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Sun. Dec. 4th

Matinee at 3:00

Tickets available online through  
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Randazzo Dance Studio and through  
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Adults \$18 Children 12 and under and  
students under 18 with student ID \$12  
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of all three shows!

Buhr Park). \$2 (family, \$5; children under 3, free).  
794-7120.

**28th Annual Alternative Holiday Fair: Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice.** Sale of handmade arts and crafts made by artisans living in Third-World countries. Toys, jewelry, ornaments, leather crafts, pottery, and more. 12:30-3 p.m., First Baptist Church, 517 E. Washington. Free admission. 663-1870.

**U-M Detroit Observatory.** Half-hour docent-guided tours of photographs and artifacts in this restored 19th-century observatory museum. Also, a chance to pull the rope and rotate the telescope dome. 1-4 p.m., U-M Detroit Observatory, 1398 E. Ann at Observatory. \$5 suggested donation (U-M students, free). 763-3482.

**★"Art as Experience": UMMA.** Dec. 4, 11, & 18. Docent-led tour, with audience participation, of highlights of UMMA collections. 1 p.m. UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763-UMMA.

**Contact Improv.** Every Sun. except Dec. 25. All invited to try this interactive, free-form dance style that involves a rolling point of contact between two or more people through which dancers give and share weight. It is somewhere between tango, modern dance, aikido, wrestling, gymnastics, and none of the above, and usually takes place without music. People do contact improv in any combination of genders, and there are no steps. No partner required; beginners welcome. Followed by discussion and socializing. 1-3 p.m., Phoenix Center, 200 S. Main (above Elmo's). \$5-\$10 sliding scale based on ability to pay. 604-4416.

**★"Comic Artists Forum": Ann Arbor District Library.** Comics artists Jerzy Drozd, a contributing editor to the online comics anthology sugaryserials.com, and Ryan Estrada, creator of the webcomic character Welton Colbert, show how to use audio, video, and other digital media to enhance your comic's website. Materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own artwork. For adults and teens in grade 6 & up. 1-3 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

**"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer": Saline Area Players.** See 1 Thursday. 1 & 3:30 p.m.

**★"Introduction to Polish Genealogy": Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County.** Talk by veteran genealogist Cecile Wendt Jensen, creator of mipolonia.net. Jensen also discusses how to find free genealogical information. 1:30 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center auditorium, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off E. Huron River Dr. at Clark Rd.). Use parking lot P and look for the club's signs. Free. 483-2799.

**★"A Celebration of St. Nicholas Day": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** Members of the Boychoir of Ann Arbor are joined by St. Andrew's Dunstan Handbell Choir in a concert of popular Christmas tunes. 1:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

**Square Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Marlin Whitaker calls traditional square dances to live music by The Millers. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. 2-5 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). \$8 (AACTMAD members, \$7; students, \$5; kids age 14 & under with a parent, free). 994-6494.

**U-M Women's Basketball vs. Iowa State.** The U-M also has games this month against Indiana St. (Dec. 17, 7 p.m.) and Illinois St. (Dec. 22, 1:30 p.m.). 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. \$5 (students & seniors, \$3; U-M students, faculty, & staff with ID, free). 764-0247.

**★"Kerry Tales: Twinkling Stars and Mother Goose": Kerrytown Shops.** Half-hour family-oriented program of rhymes, riddles, and stories with local storyteller Trudy Bulkley as Mother Goose. 2 p.m., Hollander's, 410 N. Fourth Ave. (Kerrytown). Free. 769-3115.

**★"Autumn Splendor of the Beaudoin Prairie": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.** WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner leads a hike through the preserve. Note: The hike to the prairie from the parking lot is 1 mile. 2-4 p.m., Leonard Preserve, meet at the dead end of Union St. north off Main west of M-52, Manchester. Free. 971-6337, ext. 334.

**★"Open Board Games!": Vault of Midnight.** Every Sun. except Dec. 25. All invited to play one of the store's many board games. Bring a friend or two to play with. 2-8 p.m., Vault of Midnight, 219 S. Main. Free. 998-1413.

**★"Presenting Science in Interdisciplinary Exhibitions": U-M Museum Studies Program.** U-M astronomy professor Sally Oey and The Henry Ford museum president Harold Skramstad discuss the potential of museum exhibitions to enhance science education. 2 p.m., Michigan League Hussey Room. Free. 936-6678.

**★"Photography Past, Present, and Future": UMMA Dialogues Series.** UMMA director Joseph Rosa interviews San Francisco museum of Modern Art senior curator Sandra Phillips about contempo-

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# films

**Note:** Most educational documentaries are listed with the daily Events.

**Ann Arbor Docu Fest.** Screening of a different documentary film every Mon. FREE. 929-9979. Café Ambrosia, 326 Maynard, 7 p.m.

**Dec. 5: "The Shock Doctrine"** (Alfonso & Jonas Cuarón, 2007). Documentary about the destructive force of reactionary policies and procedures inspired by the ideas of economist Milton Friedman.

**Dec. 12: "The Weight of Chains"** (Boris Malagurski, 2010). Documentary about the role of the U.S., NATO, and the EU in the breakup of Yugoslavia.

**Dec. 19: "Mohamed Atta and the Venice Flying Circus"** (Daniel Hopsicker, 2007). Documentary about the political and criminal connections of the Florida flight school where some of the 9/11 terrorists trained.

**Ann Arbor District Library.** FREE. 327-4555. AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave., 7 p.m.

**Dec. 22: "Santa Claus Conquers the Martians"** (Nicholas Webster, 1964). Martians kidnap Santa because there is nobody on Mars to give presents to their children (one of whom is played by the eminently forgettable Pia Zadora in her film debut) in this icon of what the library is touting as a "truly terrible (but hilarious)" movie.

**Ann Arbor Film Festival.** Pay what you can. 995-5356. 327 Braun Ct., 8 p.m.

**Dec. 1: "David Gatten."** This former AAFF juror and filmmaker screens his own work, which explores the intersection of the written word and the moving image. His work is showcased in *Texts of Light*, a 14-film retrospective currently traveling to the National Gallery of Art and other venues. Gatten also gives a free talk on "Working with Words" at 6 p.m. in the Ann Arbor District Library multipurpose room (343 S. Fifth Ave.).

**Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth.** \$5 suggested donation. 327-0270. 704 Airport Blvd., 8 p.m.

**Dec. 17: "Spiritual Cinema."** Screening of a feature film or several shorts TBA with spiritual themes. Followed by discussion.

**Jewel Heart Buddhist Center.** FREE. 994-3387. Jewel Heart (1129 Oak Valley Dr. between Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. & Ellsworth), 7 p.m.

**Dec. 16: "A Christmas Carol"** (Edward Marlon, 1938). Adaptation of Dickens' Christmas classic. Followed by discussion.

**Michigan Theater Foundation.** Unless there is a live show in the main theater, 2 or 3 different films are shown, usually twice, almost every night. For complete, updated schedules, see michtheater.org or call 668-TIME. Tickets (unless otherwise noted): \$9 (children under 12, students with ID, seniors age 55 & older, & U.S. veterans, \$7; MTF members, \$6.50; Wed., \$6). Michigan Theater, times TBA unless otherwise noted.

**Nov. 23-Dec. 1: "The Descendants"** (Alexander Payne, 2011). Comedic drama that stars George Clooney as a Hawaiian land owner who tries to reconnect with his daughters when his wife falls into a coma after a boating accident.

**Dec. 3: "Cinematic City: Seoul."** A series of films from South Korea. Korean, subtitles. Sponsored by the U-M Center for Korean Studies. Today: *The Chaser* (Na Hong-jin, 2008). Thriller about a former police de-

tective turned pimp who tracks down the serial killer who is killing his prostitutes. FREE. 2 p.m.

**Dec. 3: "Like There's No Tomorrow"** (Warren Miller, 2011). Recognized as the world's premier ski filmmaker, Miller has been making family-oriented ski adventure films for 60 years. He's a major star on the West Coast, where his films draw packed houses for weeklong runs, and the annual Michigan Theater showing usually draws 800 to 1,000 viewers. Tickets \$15 (kids age 12 & under, \$12) in advance at Sun & Snow Sports (2471 W. Stadium) & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000. 7 p.m.

**Dec. 4: "Miracle on 34th Street"** (George Seaton, 1947). Heartwarming comedy about an amiable old man working as a department store Santa who ends up in court on trial for insanity when he tells a skeptical young girl that he's the real thing. Edmund Gwenn, Natalie Wood, Maureen O'Hara. Free. 1:30 p.m.

**Dec. 5: "Eyes Wide Shut"** (Stanley Kubrick, 1999). When the threat of infidelity poisons a doctor's marriage, he drifts into a dangerous sexual underground. Tom Cruise, Nicole Kidman, Sydney Pollack. 7 p.m.

**Dec. 8: "Inni"** (2011). Concert footage of Icelandic ambient post-rock band Sigur Rós. A *New York Times* review calls it an "eccentric profile" that is "captured mainly in a dreamlike haze of throbbing black and white that perfectly mirrors the band's haunting, otherworldly songs."

**Dec. 9: "Take Shelter"** (Jeff Nichols, 2011). Drama about a young husband and father who debates whether to shelter his family after he has a series of apocalyptic visions about a coming storm.

**Dec. 9 & 10: "Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale"** (Jalmari Helander, 2010). Darkly comic tale, set on Christmas Eve in northern Finland, about an archaeological dig that unearths the real Santa Claus. 7 & 10 p.m.

**Dec. 11: "It's a Wonderful Life"** (Frank Capra, 1946). Sentimental classic about a man who gets a second chance at his own life on Christmas Eve. James Stewart, Donna Reed, Lionel Barrymore. Free. 4 p.m.

**Dec. 12: "A.I. Artificial Intelligence"** (Steven Spielberg, 2001). Sci-fi drama, adapted from a Stanley Kubrick script, about a child-like android programmed with the ability to love. 7 p.m.

**Dec. 14: "American Teacher"** (Vanessa Roth & Brian McGinn, 2011). Award-winning documentary produced by the Teacher Salary Project about the daily lives of teachers told through the careers of 4 teachers interwoven with interviews with policy experts. Followed by a discussion with Jonathan Dearman, one of the teachers featured in the film. Proceeds benefit 826michigan. \$6. 7 p.m.

**Dec. 16: "Melancholia"** (Lars von Trier, 2011). Sci-fi drama about 2 sisters whose strained relationship is challenged as a mysterious new planet threatens to collide with ours. Kirsten Dunst, Charlotte Gainsbourg.

**"Santa's Cool Holiday Film Festival."** A mash-up of filmic holiday kitsch—from old movie trailers and *Howdy Doody* to classic Fleischer Brothers cartoons and Lamb Chop—and a screening of the 1964 cult classic *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*.

**Dec. 18: "The Shop Around the Corner"** (Ernst Lubitsch, 1940). Romantic comedy about 2 rival employees in a Budapest gift shop who don't realize they are romantic pen pals. James Stewart, Margaret Sullivan. Free. 1:30 p.m.

**"The Nutcracker":** Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan. See 2 Friday. 2 p.m.

**"Ain't Misbehavin'":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

**"Escanaba in da Moonlight":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

**"Barefoot in the Park":** U-M Residential College Players. See 2 Friday. 2 p.m.

**"It's a Wonderful Life":** Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 p.m.

**★Pokemon League: Get Your Game On.** Every Sun. except Dec. 25. All invited to play this popular card game and trade cards with other players. 3 p.m., *Get Your Game On*, 310 S. State. Free. 786-3746.

**★"Life: How Do We Find It?":** U-M Exhibit Museum. Every Sat. & Sun., Dec. 4-17. Hands-on 20-minute demo about the aims and procedures of astrobology. 3 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.) & 11 a.m. (Sat.). U-M Exhibit Museum, 1109 Geddes at North University. Free. 764-0478.

**★Student Recital:** Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. Program TBA. 3 p.m., location TBA. Free. 213-2000.

**"A Jazz Christmas":** First United Methodist Church Green Wood Chamber Music Series Christmas jazz tunes by the Neil Anderson Jazz Combo, an ensemble of U-M students. 3 p.m.,

**Dec. 18: "Being Elmo"** (Constance Marks & Philip Shane, 2011). Documentary about the unlikely actor behind the Muppet.

**Dec. 25: "Temple Beth Emeth Double Feature."** *Joseph: King of Dreams* (Robert LaDuca & Robert C. Ramirez, 2000) is an animated musical adaptation of the story of Joseph in Genesis. Ben Affleck as the voice of Joseph. *The Prince of Egypt* (Brenda Chapman, 1998) is an animated feature about the Egyptian prince who learns about his Hebrew heritage and his destiny to become the deliverer of his people. Features Val Kilmer as the voices of Moses and of God. Bagels available before the film; lunch available at intermission. \$7.50 in advance, \$8 at the door. 10:30 a.m.

**"A Christmas Carol"** (Brian Desmond Hurst, 1951). Alistair Sim stars as Scrooge in this superb adaptation of the Dickens Christmas classic. With the 1948 Max Fleischer cartoon *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. Free. 4 p.m.

**"The Artist"** (Michel Hazanavicius, 2011). Black-and-white silent film set in Hollywood in the late 1920s about a May-December romance between a declining silent film actor and a rising actress in the talkies.

**Temple Beth Emeth "Movie Wednesday."** FREE. 665-4744. 2309 Packard, 1 p.m. Followed by discussion. Snacks.

**Dec. 21: "Driving Miss Daisy"** (Bruce Beresford, 1989). Beguiling tale of the "odd couple" friendship between an elderly Southern lady and her black chauffeur. Jessica Tandy, Morgan Freeman.

**U-M English Department Fantasy and Science Fiction/Theory Reading Group.** FREE. 764-2253. 2455 Mason Hall, 419 S. State. 7 p.m.

**Dec. 13: "Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind"** (Hiroyuki Miyazaki, 1984). Classic anime about a young princess trying to save her country from war and environmental devastation. Pizza. Age 21 & older admitted.

**U-M Japanese Animation Film Society.** U-M campus admission policy: No one under 18 admitted without an adult. FREE. umichanime.com. MLB, 812 E. Washington at Thayer, 10 a.m.-midnight.

**Dec. 10: "Animania."** Monthly anime-a-thon of feature films and episodes from Japanese TV series.

**U-M Screen Arts and Cultures.** FREE. 764-0147. Natural Science Auditorium, 6 p.m.-midnight.

**Dec. 16 & 17: "Lightworks Festival."** Screenings of animated, digital, and 16mm movies made by film students. Note: The Saturday show is usually "packed," says an organizer; get there early.

**Washtenaw Whole Foods Market.** \$3. 875-4500. WWFM, 3135 Washtenaw, 6-8 p.m.

**Dec. 2: "Forks Over Knives"** (Lee Fulkerson, 2011). Documentary examining the claim that most degenerative diseases can be controlled by adopting a diet that excludes animal-based and processed foods. Followed by discussion.

**WCBN-FM.** FREE admission. 763-3500. Arbor Brewing Company (114 E. Washington), 8:30 p.m.

**Dec. 14: "The Decline of Western Civilization II: The Metal Years"** (Penelope Spheeris, 1988). Documentary about the L.A. metal scene from 1986 to 1988. Aerosmith, Kiss, Megadeth, Motörhead, Ozzy Osbourne, Alice Cooper.

**FUMC Green Wood, 1001 Green Rd.** Freewill offering. 662-4536, ext. 0.

**Winter Concert: Chaverim B'Shirim.** This local Jewish choir performs songs from Rodgers & Hammerstein's *State Fair* and Jule Styne & Bob Merrill's *Funny Girl*. 3 p.m., Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). \$5 suggested donation. 663-1978, 971-0990.

**"Graduation Ball":** Ypsilanti Area Dancers. See 3 Saturday. 3 p.m.

**"Chills, Trills, and Holiday Thrills":** Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra Holiday Concert. This volunteer community orchestra directed by Adam Riccinto is joined by violinist John McLaughlin Williams, a Grammy-winning conductor, in Joachim's Violin Concerto. This family-oriented concert also includes works by Rimsky-Korsakov and the Afro-British composer Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, along with a mix of traditional and contemporary holiday favorites. 3:30 p.m., WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. \$10 (seniors & kids under age 12, \$5; family of up to 2 adults & 2 kids under age 12, \$25) in advance at ypsilantisymphony.org and at the door. 507-1451.

**Sunday Matinee Puppet Show: Dreamland Theater.** Every Sun. except Dec. 25. The Dreamland Puppet Troupe presents all-ages puppet shows by local writers featuring a variety of puppets created by local artists, including marionettes and shadow puppets.

**Christmas**  
PAST TO PRESENT  
Traditions  
Celebrations  
Symbols & Icons  
Hands-on Fun  
NOVEMBER 27-  
JANUARY 8  
THE MUSEUM on MAIN STREET  
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and by appointment. Call 734-662-9092.  
500 N. Main (at E. Kingsley & Beakes St.)  
www.WashtenawHistory.org  
WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**The Boychoir of Ann Arbor**  
presents:  
**A Boychoir Christmas**  
Friday December 16, 7 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church of Ypsilanti, 300 North Washington Street  
Saturday December 17, 3 p.m.  
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor, 1432 Washtenaw Avenue  
Tickets and information  
tickets@aaboychoir.org aaboychoir.org 734.663.5377

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JEFF DEVANE TOM BILL KATIE  
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rary photography. 2 p.m., UMMA Helmut Stern Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 763-UMMA.

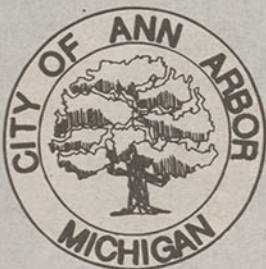
**Holiday Hometown Concert: Saline Fiddlers ReStrung.** This local touring teen fiddle ensemble plays traditional American fiddle songs, bluegrass, and high-energy American folk. Attendees are asked to bring a new toy for donation to the Toys for Tots program. 2 p.m., Saline High School Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. \$10 (students & seniors, \$7). 224-8725.

**Ann Arbor TubaChristmas.** All invited to bring an instrument and a music stand (with clothespins) to join around 40 players in this annual outdoor performance of holiday carols on tubas, euphoniums, sousaphones, and baritone horns. One of many outdoor concerts held today across the nation and in Canada in memory of TubaChristmas founder Harvey Phillips. Registration and rehearsal at the U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium (1226 Murfin, North Campus) begins at 9:30 a.m. Music books available (\$15). Bring a lunch. Hats, gloves, and sunglasses recommended. 2-3 p.m., U-M Diag. \$7. Free to spectators. 395-9544.

**"133rd Annual Handel's Messiah":** University Choral Union (University Musical Society). See 3 Saturday. 2 p.m.

**"Princess Ida":** U-M Gilbert and Sullivan Society. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.





# SNOW REMOVAL

## City of Ann Arbor

### STREETS

Where there is light snow or ice on road surfaces, the City's Public Services Area clears over 98 miles of high volume streets, bridges, intersections with stop signs or traffic signals, and streets with curves. De-icing materials are applied to provide better traction for vehicles to help prevent accidents at high-risk locations. The street clearing process takes about five hours and may be repeated as needed. After the major and high-risk streets are cleared, City crews de-ice the local streets in the City, which requires ten to twelve hours.

When a snowfall of four inches or more occurs, street snow plowing begins and the City Administrator may declare that a "snow emergency" is in effect. Plowing is done on all public streets and City-owned property; however, all schools and privately owned areas provide for their own de-icing and plowing. Citizens are advised to remove cars from curbside parking to allow for effective street plowing.

When a "snow emergency" is in effect, illegally parked vehicles may be ticketed and towed.

The City snow desk is staffed when a snow emergency is in effect. The snow desk tracks the location of plows throughout the City and provides information to the public about the plowing progress. You may reach the snow desk at 794-6367.

**\* On days having odd-numbered dates, vehicles are prohibited from parking on the side of the street having even-numbered street addresses—**in order to allow plows to clear the even-numbered side of the street. Parking is permitted on the side of the street with odd-numbered addresses in legal spaces.

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### SIDEWALKS

When there is a snow event in Ann Arbor, the City depends on its citizens to be helpful, responsible, and aware of the need to remove all snow and ice from the public sidewalks including walks and ramps leading to a cross walk.

During the winter months, many Ann Arbor residents (including children walking to school and the physically challenged) need to be able to safely use the public sidewalks. This means that all snow and ice should be removed from the entire constructed width enabling people of all ages and physical conditions to have access to clean pedestrian walkways. City council

has passed an ordinance regarding snow removal (violations can result in fines up to \$500), but reminds you that sidewalk snow removal is simply a combination of courtesy and caring toward all those who need to use the public sidewalks.

The City reminds owners or occupants of non-residentially zoned properties that all snow and ice which has accumulated on the adjacent public sidewalk prior to 6am must be removed by noon. Immediately after the accumulation of ice on such a sidewalk it must be treated with sand, salt or other substance to prevent it from being slippery. Within 24 hours after the end of each accumulation of snow greater than 1 inch, the owner or occupant of every residentially zoned property must remove the accumulation from the adjacent public sidewalk.

Remember, accumulation can occur from any source including precipitation and drifting, and the term "sidewalk" includes adjacent walks and ramps leading to crosswalks, typically at corners. Ice must be treated as mentioned above and removed within 24 hours after accumulation. Last but certainly not least, please exercise caution and care when shoveling, especially during extreme cold.

**Best Wishes for a Safe and Happy Winter Season from the City of Ann Arbor**

Please save for reference throughout the snow months.

Revised November 2009



The stories often contain humorously intended social commentary that, like contemporary children's cartoons, some may consider inappropriate. 3:30 p.m., *Dreamland Theater*, 26 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. \$5 (kids age 3 & under, free). 657-2337.

★**"The Fire Within": Yourist Studio Gallery.** Screening of this video about potter M.C. Richards, a central figure in the early 50s New York avant-garde art scene. 4 p.m., Yourist Studio Gallery, 1133 Broadway. Free. 662-4914.

★**"The Day the Falls Stood Still": Society of Women Engineers Book Club.** All invited to discuss Cathy Marie Buchanan's love story, set during WWI in Niagara Falls, that revolves around the dawn of hydroelectric power and loosely follows the history of daredevil and rescuer William "Red" Hill. 4 p.m., Barnes & Noble 2nd floor, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 572-9243.

**Annual Winter Concert: Ann Arbor Youth Chorus.** Ensembles of talented local young singers perform works TBA. 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets TBA at the door only. 996-4404.

**34th Annual Boar's Head Festival: Concordia University.** See 2 Friday. 4 p.m.

★**Faculty Recital: U-M School of Music.** Soprano Caroline Helton, clarinetist Chad Burrow, and pianist Amy Cheng perform group and solo works by 19th-century German composers, including Louis Spohr's *Six German Songs* and Giacomo Meyerbeer's "Hirtentied." 5 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★**"15th Annual Evening of Dinner & Jazz": African American Cultural & Historical Museum Fund-raiser.** Buffet dinner with live jazz by Ron Brooks & Friends, an ensemble led by veteran local bassist (and former Bird of Paradise owner) Brooks and featuring Betty Joplin, a silky-voiced jazz singer from Lansing with a vocal style somewhere between Aretha Franklin and Natalie Cole and a repertoire that blends Sarah Vaughan and Nancy Wilson. Cash bar. 5-8 p.m., Polo Fields Golf and Country Club, 2955 Packard. Tickets \$50 in advance by phone or email. aachmuseum@gmail.com, 971-7819.

★**Baird Carillon 75th Anniversary Celebration: U-M School of Music.** Local carillonneur Steven Ball re-creates the 1936 dedicatory recital for the Burton Tower carillon. Dress warmly. 5:15 p.m., Burton Tower. Free. 764-0594.

★**Ann Arbor Morris.** Every Sun. except Dec. 25. All invited to try this boisterous, jingly English ceremonial dance based on the 15th-century Spanish *moresca*. Wear athletic shoes. 6-8 p.m., Gretchen's House VII barn, 1580 Dhu Varren Rd. Free. Email a2morris@umich.edu to confirm. 747-8138.

★**"Steve Reich: A 75th Birthday Celebration": U-M Percussion Ensemble.** Ian Ding directs this energetic music student ensemble in works by the celebrated minimalist composer, including "Drumming, Part I," *Mallet Quartet*, *Clapping Music*, and *Nagoya Marimbas*. The program also includes works inspired by Reich's career, including Wilco drummer Glenn Kotche's *Clapping Music Variations* and Bang on a Can percussionist David Cossin's *Music for Pieces of Wood*. 7:30 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

★**Flute Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** U-M music professor Amy Porter directs students in a program TBA. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

**Ballroom Dance Club at the U-M.** Every Sun. except Dec. 25. Ballroom dancing to recorded music, including fox-trots, waltzes, cha-chas, rumbas, tangos, swing, and more. No partner necessary. Preceded at 7 p.m. by beginning lessons and practice. 8-10 p.m., Michigan Union Ballroom (Dec. 4 & 18), Michigan League Ballroom (Dec. 11). \$5. 763-6984.

**Chris Cornell: Live Nation.** Solo acoustic performance by this former frontman of the grunge band Soundgarden and the hard-rock supergroup Audioslave, a versatile singer-songwriter whose music is known for its blend of haunting lyricism and melodic inventiveness. His brand-new CD *Songbook* is a collection of recent live performances. 8 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$29.50 & \$39.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office and all other Ticketmaster outlets. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

★**"Fugue": New Theatre Project.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

## 5 MONDAY

★**"Playgroups for Babies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Mon. Playgroup for kids up to 24 months, accompanied by an adult. No older siblings. Note: Play days are also offered at the Malletts Creek (Tues. 10-11 a.m., & Thurs. 6:30-7:30 p.m.),

Pittsfield (Wed. 11 a.m.-noon), and Traverwood (Fri. 10:30-11 a.m.) branches. 10:30-11:30 a.m., AADL, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Movie Matinee: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Mon. Screening of a film TBA. Lunch available (\$2.50), 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 12:45 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794-6250.

★**Writing Group: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** Every Mon. through Dec. 19. All seniors invited to read and discuss poetry, essays, fiction, and reminiscences they have written. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★**"Translation in the Ancient and Modern Near East": U-M Center for Near Eastern Studies.** Talk by U-M Near Eastern studies professor Gottfried Hagen. 4 p.m., 2022 Thayer Bldg., 202 S. Thayer. Free. 764-0314.

★**Voice Department Recital: U-M School of Music.** Performance of choral works TBA. 6:45 p.m., U-M Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★**"Fats Waller": Ann Arbor District Library.** Lecture, with musical interludes, by pianist James Dapogny, a U-M music professor specializing in early jazz who is most widely known as the leader of the Chicago Jazz Band. In conjunction with the current Performance Network production of the Fats Waller revue *Ain't Misbehavin'* (see 1 Thursday listing). 7-8 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Free. 327-4555.

★**Tartan & Thistle Scottish Country Dancers.** Dec. 5, 12, & 19. A wide range of traditional and contemporary Scottish dances, with live music. All dances taught. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Gretchen's House V, 2625 Traver. \$5. 395-7782, 769-1052, 426-0241.

★**Large Ensemble Meeting: Ann Arbor Recorder Society.** All beginning and advanced players of the recorder and other early instruments invited. Directed by local flutist Tim Tikker. Music provided; bring your own music stand. 7:30-9:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free to visitors (\$35 annual dues for those who join). 274-9463.

★**U-M Symphony Band: U-M School of Music.** Michael Haithcock directs this music student ensemble in Silvestre Revueltas' *Sensemaya*, Gabrielli's *Aria della Battaglia*, del Tredici's *In Wartime*, Colgrass' *Winds of Nagual*, and Marquez's *Danzon* no. 2. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

★**Baroque Chamber Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Aaron Berofsky and Edward Parmentier direct this music student ensemble in works by Corelli, Scheidt, Couperin, and Purcell. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★**Pub Quiz: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub.** Every Mon. Local high school English teacher Geoff Cost throws out questions for anyone to answer at this popular weekly trivia fest. Prizes. 8:30-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$5 team fee. 665-2968.

## 6 TUESDAY

★**Scrabble: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** Every Tues. All seniors age 50 & over invited to play this popular word game. 10 a.m.-noon, Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. \$2 (members, free). 794-6250.

★**Preschool Storytimes: Ann Arbor District Library.** Every Tues. & Wed. Stories and songs for kids ages 2-5 (accompanied by an adult). Note: These storytimes are also offered at the Traverwood (Tues. 11-11:30 a.m., Wed. 6-6:30 p.m., & Thurs. 10-10:30 a.m.), Malletts Creek (Wed. 10-10:30 a.m.), and Pittsfield (Thurs. 7-7:30 p.m. & Fri. 10-10:30 a.m.) branches. 10-10:30 a.m. (Tues.) & 11-11:30 a.m. (Wed.), AADL youth department story room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**"The U.S., China, and a Changing Global Economy: What Does the Future Hold?": U-M Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Distinguished Lecture Series.** Lecture by U-M business professor Linda Lim. Fourth in a series of 9 monthly lectures. 10:30-11:30 a.m., Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 2900 Jackson Rd. \$65 (members, \$45) for the 9-lecture series. Memberships are \$20 a year. Pre-registration required. 998-9351.

★**Jewish Older Adults: Jewish Community Center.** Every Tues. Activities begin at 11 a.m. with "Energy Exercise" (\$4), a 60-minute workout led by Maria Farquhar, and at 1 p.m. mah-jongg, bridge and other card games, board games, Wii sports, and quilting and other craft projects. Also, at 1:30 p.m., Yiddish Tish, a Yiddish conversation group. Homemade buffet luncheon (\$3) available at noon. All invited. 11 a.m.-3 p.m., JCC, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free (except as noted). 971-0990.

★**"From Filiality to Loyalty: Visions of the Emperor on Late Imperial China": U-M Center for Chinese Studies Noon Lecture Series.** Talks by U-M history professor Pär Cassel. Free sandwiches,

**AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**  
THE FATS WALLER MUSICAL SHOW  
CONCEIVED BY RICHARD MALTBY, JR. & MURRAY HORWITZ

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30th ANNIVERSARY SEASON

UNDERWRITTEN BY BOB & MARINA WHITMAN LINDA SPRANKLE  
MEDIA SPONSOR: WEMU 89.1

## Recycle Your Evergreens!



Please cut and bundle your bare tree or place branches in your compost cart for Compost collection, which resumes in April. No Christmas tree pickups will be provided during winter 2011-2012.

### Drop Off Site - 2950 E. Ellsworth

Free drop-off of undecorated evergreen trees is provided outside the Drop-Off Station, from Dec. 15, 2011 to Jan. 31, 2012. City of Ann Arbor 99-GREEN - a2gov.org/compost

## Your place or ours...

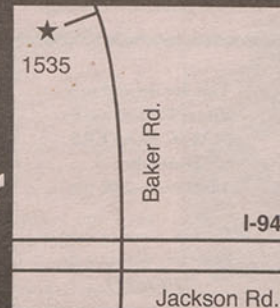


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## New exhibits this month:

**Ann Arbor Art Center**, 117 W. Liberty. *Ann Arbor Women Artists 60th Anniversary Exhibition* (Dec. 9-31). Juried exhibition of works by AAWA members. Reception 4 Friday, 6-8 p.m. Mon.-Sat. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. 994-8004.

**Ann Arbor District Library, Downtown Branch** (343 S. Fifth Ave.): *Rock and Revolution* (Dec. 2-Jan. 15). Photographs from the 60s and 70s by former local White Panther and Rainbow People's Party members Leni Sinclair and David Fenton. Also, art rock posters from the 60s and 70s and documents from the U-M Bentley Historical Library's collection of John and Leni Sinclair's papers. **Malletts Creek Branch** (3090 E. Eisenhower): *Comics! Visual Storytelling* (Dec. 17-Jan. 30). Comics and illustrations by Anne and Jerzy Drozd. Mon. 10 a.m.-9 p.m., Tues.-Fri. 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Sat. 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Sun., noon-6 p.m. 327-4555.

**EMU Ford Gallery**, Ford Hall, E. Cross between Welch Hall and Boone Hall, Ypsilanti. *Paintings by Connaught Cullen* (Dec. 5-9). Reception Dec. 7, 4:30-7:30 p.m. Mon. & Thurs. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tues. & Wed. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Fri. & Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 487-1268.

**Gallery Project**, 215 S. Fourth Ave. *Post Apocalypse* (Dec. 14-Jan. 22). Works by more than 20 local, regional, and national artists whose work imagines what the world might look like after life-altering

events. Tues.-Sat. noon-9 p.m., Sun. noon-4 p.m. 997-7012.

**Gifts of Art (U-M Hospitals), Main Hospital:** *Gardens: Un-Still Life Acrylic Paintings* by Joyce Lieberman; *Seeking Delight, Creating Mayhem: Woodblock Prints* by Marian Short; *Adornment & Inspiration: Jewelry* by Beth North (all exhibits run Dec. 12-Feb. 6). *Artistic Trappings: Fiber & Beadwork* by Madeline Navarro; *Inspired by the Masters: Fiber Art by the Ausome Study Group* (both exhibits run Dec. 12-Apr. 9). **Taubman Center:** *Snowflake Royal: Face Cards Revealed; Birds & Beasts in Clay* by Lilli Blackburn; *Saline Area Schools K-12 Student Group Show* (all exhibits run Dec. 12-Feb. 6). Daily 8 a.m.-8 p.m. 936-ARTS.

**Kerrytown Concert House**, 415 N. Fourth Ave. *Textile Art by Barbara Bushey* (Dec. 6-Jan. 2). Reception Dec. 15, 5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., by appointment, and during evening concerts. 769-2999.

**Trinity Lutheran Church**, 1400 W. Stadium. *Love Makes a Family* (Dec. 4-17). A traveling exhibit with photographs and text about racial, cultural, and sexual diversity. Mon.-Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Sun. 12:30-3 p.m. 662-4419.

**U-M International Institute**, African Studies Center room 1644, 1080 South University. *George Kushiator: Cultural and Spiritual Rediscovery* (Dec. 1-21).

**Works U-M African Presidential Scholar Kushiator**, a multimedia artist whose works draw on the values of his native Ghana. Reception Dec. 1, 3 p.m. Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 936-0671, 615-3027.

**U-M North Quad Space 2435**, 105 S. State. *Made in Translation* (Dec. 2-20). Works that incorporate and interrogate text in sculpture and print media by Boston artist Randy Garber. Reception Dec. 2, 6-8 p.m.

**U-M Slusser Gallery (U-M School of Art & Design)**, 2000 Bonisteel. *All Student Exhibition* (through Dec. 14). Parts of the exhibit also are on display at the U-M Warren Robbins Center (2000 Bonisteel) and U-M Work (306 S. State). Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 936-2082.

**U-M Taubman Health Sciences Library**, 1135 E. Catherine. *Epidemic: TB in the Global Community* (Nov. 28-Dec. 2). Photos by David Rockkind that depict HIV/AIDS patients with TB. In conjunction with World AIDS Week. Full schedule of events at [worldaidsweek.um.wordpress.com](http://worldaidsweek.um.wordpress.com). Mon.-Thurs. 8 a.m.-11:45 p.m., Fri. 8 a.m.-7:45 p.m.

**WSG Gallery**, 306 S. Main. *Holiday Gift Show* (Nov. 29-Jan. 2). Tues.-Thurs. noon-6 p.m., Fri. & Sat. noon-9 p.m., Sun. noon-5 p.m. 761-2287.

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cookies, & coffee served. Noon-1 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-6308.

**\*Brown Bag Lecture: U-M Institute for the Humanities.** Dec. 6 & 13. Bring a bag lunch. Dec. 6: U-M music professor Ken Kiesler and pianist Barbara Nissman (see 10 Saturday listing) discuss "Remembering Alberto Ginerola." Dec. 13: U-M university librarian Paul Courant on "Changes in Communication that Derive from New Information Technologies." Noon-1:30 p.m., 202 S. Thayer, room 2022. Free. 936-3518.

**\*"The New Turkey and the Issue of Genocide: Armenians in a Progressive Imagination":** U-M Armenian Studies Program. Talk by U-M history professor Ronald Suny. 4-5:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 647-2743.

**\*"Holiday Seafood Ideas":** Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. A seafood expert gives tips and recipes. 5 p.m., Whole Foods wine bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. Free. Preregistration required. 997-7500.

**\*Lizzie Hutton: U-M J. Edgar Edwards Reading Series.** See review, p. 63. Reading by this U-M English and education grad student, a Hopwood-winning U-M creative writing MFA and widely published poet who recently published her debut collection *She'd Waited Millennia*. 5 p.m., 3222 Angell Hall. Free. 764-6330.

**\*"Knit Happens":** Ann Arbor Stitch 'n' Bitch. Every Tues. All knitters invited to work on their projects and swap knitting tips. 6:30-8:30 p.m., location TBA. Free. 945-3035.

**\*"Untitled":** U-M Spectrum Center/World AIDS Week. Screening of this nonlinear documentary montage of archival footage of the early years of the AIDS crisis. 6:30 p.m., Michigan League Henderson Room. Free. [worldaidsweek.um.wordpress.com](http://worldaidsweek.um.wordpress.com). 763-4186.

**English Country Dancing: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Dec. 6, 13, & 20. Historical and traditional English dancing to live music. All dances taught. No partner or experience needed. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. 7 p.m., Chapel Hill Condominium clubhouse, 3350 Green Rd. (park on Burbank). \$7 (students, \$4; kids age 13 & under with a parent, free). 665-7704.

**\*Common Thread Knitters Club.** Dec. 6 & 20. All knitters invited to meet members of this local knitting group and exchange tips. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

**\*Ann Arbor Area Writers Group.** Every Tues. All local writers invited to bring samples of their writing to read and discuss. Observers welcome. 7-9 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 665-8194.

**\*Ann Arbor Camera Club.** Club members show their recent slides and prints, including those on the club's current topic, "Doors." 7:30 p.m., Forsythe Middle School Media Center, 1655 Newport. Free to visitors (\$25 annual dues for those who join). 327-4781.

**\*"Red Light Green Light: A Game for Life, Building Attention and Will Power":** Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society in America. Talk by Detroit Waldorf School teacher and Association for a Healing Education president Mary Jo Oresti. 7:30 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. Free. 623-1966.

**\*Spanish Readers Group: Nicola's Books.** All invited to join a discussion, in Spanish, of *Demasiados Heroes*, Laura Restrepo's novel about the wife and son of an ex-Argentine militant. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

**\*Saxophone Studio Recital: U-M School of Music.** Donald Sinta directs students in quartets and mixed chamber music. 7:30 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baits (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-3594.

**London Philharmonic Orchestra: University Musical Society.** This venerable ensemble, noted for the detailed refinement of its playing, finely graded orchestral colors, and a sometimes overwhelming power, is led by Vladimir Jurowski, the critically acclaimed young Russian conductor who succeeded Kurt Masur in 2007. Tonight, Jurowski conducts Tchaikovsky's rarely performed *Manfred Symphony*. In a review of an earlier performance, a critic with London's *The Times* praised Jurowski and said, "the string sound was lighter and less searingly intense than maestros of an older generation tended to encourage in Tchaikovsky. Instead, there was a white-knuckle tension and a real sense of a wild and tragic story recounted with enthralling detail, vivid colour and pace." Tonight's program also includes Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5 in A Major, featuring the young Dutch virtuoso violinist Janine Jansen. Preceded at 5:30 p.m. by a prelude dinner (\$50 in advance only) that features a talk by LPO artistic director Timothy Walker. 7:30 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Tickets \$10-\$75 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office & [ums.org](http://ums.org), and (if available) at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538 or (800) 221-1229.

## 7 WEDNESDAY

**"Go, Dog, Go":** EMU Theater Department. See 2 Friday, 10 a.m.

**\*"Claiming Ancestral Homelands: Mongolian Kazakh Migration in Inner Asia":** U-M Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies. Talk by U-M anthropology grad student Anna Genina. Bring a bag lunch, if you like. Noon-1:30 p.m., 1636 SSWB, 1080 South University. Free. 764-0351.

**\*Chess: U-M Turner Senior Resource Center.** Every Wed. through Dec. 28. All seniors invited to play chess. Refreshments. 1-4 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

**\*Scrabble: Ann Arbor Scrabblers.** Every Wed. All invited to play this popular word game. Bring a set if you have one. 5-8 p.m., Arbor Brewing, 114 E. Washington. Free. 994-0084.

**\*"Ghost Writers: Us Haunting Them":** U-M Institute for the Humanities Authors Forum. U-M undergrad creative writing program director Keith Taylor and U-M English professor Laura Kasischke host a discussion of this collection of 12 Michigan-themed fictional and nonfictional ghost stories they co-edited. Participants include some of the other contributors to *Ghost Writers*. 5:30-7 p.m., 100 Hatcher Library, 920 North University. Free. 936-3518.

**\*Flute Ensembles: EMU Music Department.** Julie Stone directs the music student Flute Choir and small ensembles in a program TBA. 6 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

**"Wisconsin Cheese Dinner":** Zingerman's Roadhouse. Zingerman's Roadhouse chef Alex Young is joined by Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board oral historian Ed Janus to host a dinner featuring dishes with Wisconsin cheese in each course. 7 p.m., Zingerman's Roadhouse, 2501 Jackson Rd. \$45. Beverages available a la carte. Space limited; reservations required. 663-FOOD.

**Ann Arbor Bridge Club.** Every Wed. All invited to play ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge. If you plan to come without a partner, call in advance or arrive 20 minutes early. 7-11 p.m., Walden Hills clubhouse, 2114 Pauline west of Maple. (Park in the designated spaces in the lot on the north side of Pauline.) \$6 per person. 623-8050.

**\*Peter Markus & Matt Bell: Nicola's Books.** Dzanc Books senior editor Bell reads from his short story collection *How They Were Found*. EMU fiction professor Markus reads from his short story collection *We Make Mud*. Signing. 7 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

**\*Yellow Room Gang: Ann Arbor District Library.** In-the-round performances by this group of 8 award-winning veteran Michigan songwriters who get together regularly to share their new work. Members are David Barrett, Jim Bizer, Annie Capps, Kitty Donohoe, Jan Krist, Matt Watroba, and Michael Hough & David Tamulevich of the local duo Mustard's Retreat. The Yellow Room Gang's eponymous compilation CD features brand-new and older songs by each artist. 7-8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

**\*Visitors Night: Ann Arbor Model Railroad Club.** All invited to check out the trains whizzing around on the club's big, elaborate layout, housed in a depot restored by the club. 7:30-10 p.m., Michigan Central depot, 3487 Broad, Dexter. Free. 426-5100.

**\*History of Books & Printing Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to discuss *The Riddle and the Knight: In Search of Sir John Mandeville, the World's Greatest Traveler*, Giles Milton's account of a knight who was once the most famous writer in medieval Europe. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

**\*"Christmas Concert":** Gabriel Richard High School. Performances by the school choir, the madrigals choir, the concert orchestra, and the music liturgy band. 7:30 p.m. (tentative), GRHS, 4333 Whitehall Dr. (north off Plymouth just east of US-23). Free. 662-0496.

**"Puer Natus Est":** Stile Antico (University Musical Society). This award-winning 12-member British early-music vocal ensemble—noted for its clear tone, rhythmic energy, and sensitive response to the words—impressively performs sans conductor. Tonight's program of Tudor music for Christmas and Advent features Thomas Tallis' richly resonant seven-part mass *Puer Natus Est* ("a boy is born") interspersed with Advent motets from William Byrd's *The Gradualia*, Robert White's *Magnificat*, and John Sheppard's *Verbum Caro*. "Even Scrooge would embrace this transporting survey of Tudor English Christmas music" said a reviewer with *Time Out New York*, which included a recording of *Puer Natus Est* on its "Best of 2010" list. 7:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, corner of Catherine and N. Division. Tickets \$35-\$45 in advance at the Michigan League Box Office & [ums.org](http://ums.org), and (if available) at

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★**University Philharmonia Orchestra: U-M School of Music.** Christopher James Lees directs this U-M music student ensemble in Ravel's *Mother Goose Suite*, Bax's *Tintagel*, and Shostakovich's Symphony No. 9. The program is preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a talk. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

★**Cathal Breslin: U-M School of Music.** This Irish pianist, a former U-M grad student, has won praise for his passion and intensity in solo and group performances throughout the U.S., Europe, and Asia. Program: Brahms's Klavierstücke, Hammond's *Forgotten Longing*, Prokofiev's Sonata no. 4, and Chopin's Four Ballades. 8 p.m., U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

“Escanaba in da Moonlight”: Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

“Comedy Jamm”: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Every Wed. Performances by up to 12 aspiring area stand-up comics. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$5 in advance and at the door. 996-9080.

“Juke Box Jungle”: Conor O'Neill's Irish Pub. Every Wed. Conor O'Neill's staff member Brian Aherne hosts a music trivia quiz. Prizes. 9-11:30 p.m., Conor O'Neill's, 318 S. Main. \$3 team fee. 665-2968.

**Open Dancing: Swing Ann Arbor.** Dec. 7 & 14. Swing dancing to prerecorded music. No partner needed. Bring casual or nicer shoes that stay on your feet when you're active. Preceded by intermediate (7 p.m.) and beginning (8 p.m.) swing lessons. 9-11 p.m., Michigan Union Pendleton Room. \$5 (students, \$4). 945-8428.

## 8 THURSDAY

“Go, Dog, Go”: EMU Theater Department. See 2 Friday. 10 a.m.

“Little Women”: Wild Swan Theater. Dec. 8-11. Hilary Cohen directs local actors in this award-winning local children's theater's stage adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's beloved classic about 4 Civil War-era sisters growing up in New England. The play focuses on the tomboyish aspiring young writer Jo March and her family and friends' joys and sorrows. Suitable for 3rd graders and up. The performance is interpreted in American Sign Language. Audio description and backstage “touch” tours available by prearrangement for blind audience members. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. (Dec. 8 & 9), and 2 p.m. (Dec. 10 & 11), WCC Morris Lawrence Bldg. Towsley Auditorium, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Tickets \$12 (kids, \$8) in advance and at the door. 995-0530.

★“Small Dishes with Chef Brendan McCall”: Ann Arbor District Library. Cooking demo with Mani Osteria chef McCall, who showcases some of his restaurant's most popular dishes. 10:30-11:30 a.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4555.

**Ikebana International Chapter 183.** All invited to join a session of ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arranging. Call for instructions on equipment to bring. 1 p.m., University Commons, 817 Asa Gray Dr. (off Huron Pkwy.). \$15 (members, \$8) materials fee. (248) 685-7696.

★“Sikh Studies and the Secular University: Past Engagements, Future Orientations”: U-M College of Literature, Science, & the Arts. Lecture by U-M Sikh studies professor Arvind-Pal Singh Mandair. 4:10 p.m., Rackham Amphitheater. Free. 998-6251.

★“Out of Thin Air: The 99”: U-M School of Art & Design Penny Stamps Lecture Series. Kuwaiti clinical psychologist and comics artist Naif Al-Mutawa discusses *The 99*, his series of comic superheroes, inspired by Islamic culture and history, that President Obama praised for its innovativeness. 5:10 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 647-2337.

**Scandinavian Christmas Celebration: Ann Arbor Scandinavian Club.** This family-oriented party features folk singing, a Lucia train (a Swedish children's pageant), and other activities. Santa Claus is on hand. Bring a dish to share for a potluck (A-H: dessert; I-R: meat, cold cuts, or herring; S-Z: bread, cheese, or salad), and a Santa gift for your child. Smorgasbord with glogg (a spiced seasonal fruit-and-wine beverage). Open to anyone interested in Scandinavian culture. 6:30-9 p.m., Zion Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Liberty. \$5 (family, \$10). [Johanna@umich.edu](mailto:Johanna@umich.edu).

“Holiday Specialties”: Arbor Brewing Company Beer Tasting. A chance to sample and learn about some 2 dozen different spiced beers, old ales, meads, and other holiday favorites. Also, a drawing for beer-related prizes. The price of admission includes unlimited beer sampling and a German appetizer buffet. 7-9 p.m., Arbor Brewing Company, 114 E. Washington. Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 (if available) at the door. 213-1393.



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# alt-country



## The Wheeler Brothers Folk-rock meeting point

Quite a few bands have tried to be inspired by the chart-topping Avett Brothers and have found it's a lot trickier than it seems: that band's mix of artless country sentiment and alternative rock energy is simple and ingenious enough that any duplication can seem purely derivative. The Wheeler Brothers—native Austinites Nolan, Tyler, and Patrick Wheeler plus two longtime friends—come as close as anyone to picking up the Avetts' ideas, and they're being rewarded with a strong live following similar to the one that alerted roots music bookers that something was up with the Avetts. They recently released their debut album, *Portraits*.

The basic Avett Brothers structure is there: a number of Wheelers' songs begin with a folky melody accompanied by acoustic guitar and then use power chords to amplify the meaning. But the romantic sentimentality is mostly gone. In its place are ambitious lyrics that often involve some kind of quest, either placed in the perspective of a song's narrator or as a story about someone else. Lines like "Focus: let us forfeit everything we've owned" introduce a philosophical strain that was more common

with the ancestors of Americana music than it is in the genre today.

On the other hand, the band is capable of a party anthem like "Sleep When I'm Dead," written to the "Can't You See" chord progression, that has gained them a Texas fraternity following. In between are songs with a great variety of sounds, from the bluegrass instruments of classic Americana to Mexican horn groups and even a glockenspiel. "Ghost in the Valley" is an extended meditation on Mexican immigration that goes through several phases and returns to a haunting banjo-accordion combination. The material can come close to spinning out of control, but the band members are churning around in productive waters, and they are showing unusually strong potential in terms of writing songs in which the lyrics and the arrangements play equal roles.

On top of all this, the band is a collection of individuals, with three different lead vocalists and multiple song types that show signs of being welded into a larger and fresher whole. If you enjoy the Avetts it's a pretty good bet that you will like these guys, but that's also true of anyone interested in the folk-rock meeting point. The Wheeler Brothers make their local debut at The Ark on Sunday, December 11 (see Nightspots, p. 54).

—James M. Manheim

**"It's a Wonderful Life":** Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday, 7 p.m.

**★"America's Senator: The Unexpected Odyssey of Arthur H. Vandenberg":** U-M Ford Presidential Library. Screening of highlights of this documentary about the Michigan Republican who served in the U.S. Senate for 23 years until his death in 1951. With live commentary by Vandenberg's biographer Hank Meijer, the film's writer and producer Mike Grass, and Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies director Gleaves Whitney. 7:30 p.m., Ford Library, 1000 Beal. Free. 205-0555.

**★Annual Winter Sing: Pioneer High School.** Steven Lorenz leads all 11 of the school's vocal groups in works by Lauridsen, Mozart, Gjeilo, and P.D.Q. Bach. 7:30 p.m., Pioneer High School Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994-2120.

**"Little Women":** U-M Musical Theatre Studio. Dec. 8-11. Danny Gurwin directs U-M musical theater students in a studio production of Allan Knee, Jason Howland, and Mindi Dickstein's 2005 musical adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's beloved novel about 4 sisters growing up in Concord (MA) during the Civil War. 7:30 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Towsley Musical Theatre Studio, 1226 Murfin. Tickets \$17 (students with ID, \$10) in advance at the Michigan League Box Office and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

**"The Beaux' Stratagem":** U-M Theatre Department. Dec. 8-11. U-M theater professor Priscilla Lindsay directs U-M drama students in Thornton Wilder and Ken Ludwig's adaptation of George Farquhar's Restoration comedy about 2 young gentlemen fallen on hard times who plan to rectify their finances by charming young heiresses into marriage,

stealing their money, and moving on. Problems ensue when one of them falls truly in love. 7:30 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$26 (students, \$10) at the Michigan League Box Office in advance and at the door. To charge by phone, call 764-2538.

**"Ain't Misbehavin'":** Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

**Winter Concert: Kol Hakavod.** This popular chorus, dubbed the "U-M's Jewish cappella sensation," sings a program of Jewish and secular songs, including Shotei Hanevuah's "Ein Ani," Bruno Mars' "Grenade," Nelly's "Just a Dream," Sarit Hadad's "Shema Yisrael," Laura Izibor's "Shine," and others. 8 p.m. (tentative), U-M Hillel, 1429 Hill St. \$7 (tentative; students, \$5). 769-0500.

**★Concert Band: U-M School of Music.** Rodney Dorsey conducts this music student ensemble in works by French composers—Milhaud's *Suite Française* and Dukas' fanfare from the ballet *La Péri*—as well as other works inspired by dance, including U-M grad Kenneth Hesketh's *Diaghilev Dances* and Tchaikovsky's *Dance of the Jesters*. 8 p.m., Hill Auditorium. Free. 764-0594.

**"The Way I See It":** U-M Dance Department B.F.A. Concert. Dec. 8-10. An evening of original choreography by U-M dance majors Chloe Aiello, Shanna Cruzat, Edith Freyer, and Morgan Wallace. Note: These shows often sell out very quickly. 8 p.m., U-M Dance Bldg. Betty Pease Studio, 1310 North University Ct. \$5 at the door only, beginning at 7 p.m. 763-5460, 763-5461.

**"Christmas Belles":** PTD Productions. Dec. 8-11 & 15-17. Dennis Platte and Janet Rich direct local actors in Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope, and Jamie

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## Ain't Misbehavin'

*Keeping  
the Harlem  
Renaissance  
alive*

*Ain't Misbehavin'* is a sizzling, lively tribute to Fats Waller and Harlem between the world wars, where music, dance, art, and literature bloomed in a brief and beautiful kind of Camelot. A lot of the luminaries who passed through that neighborhood, like Langston Hughes and Paul Robeson, left serious, game-changing artistry in their wake. Fats Waller might not be quite in their arena, but he contributed a lot of style and flair. In Harlem, they particularly loved the piano, and Waller was one of the early adopters of a certain springy left-hand rhythm called "stride." He was also a composer, spinning off hit songs effortlessly.

This is a revue, a cousin to the musical. If musical comedy is theater that sprouted songs, a revue is a music program that sprouted acting. This one, created in 1978 by Richard Maltby and Murray Horowitz, ran for over a decade on Broadway and is probably the reason why most people can stumble through a few lines from Waller's most famous songs, "Honeysuckle Rose" and the title song "Ain't Misbehavin'."

Set in a 1940s after-hours speakeasy in Harlem, the revue, which runs through January 1 at Performance Network, features three women (Kron Moore, K Edmonds, and Jennifer Cole) and two men (Darrian Ford and James Bowen) who sing and act out Waller's greatest hits, throwing in a little dance and between-song banter. The four-person band, composed of piano, sax, bass, and drums, is all white. Coincidence? It's more likely a sly role reversal. Jazz and blues artists like Fats Waller, Duke Ellington, and Ethel Waters put places like the Cotton Club on the map, but they played to largely white audiences,



and the management never let them forget they were the hired help.

The first act glides by quickly, mixing Waller's great old chestnuts with weaker, less memorable material. The real show-stoppers come in a cluster in the second half of the show. The close juxtaposition of Ford's beautifully grotesque "Viper's Drag," followed by Bowen's loose and jokey "Your Feet's Too Big," then the blistering anthem "(What Did I Do to Be) So Black and Blue" sung in five-part harmony, suggest that Waller had considerably more wingspan as a composer than he's often given credit for.

Moore, Cole, and Edmonds wear form-fitting, glossy satin outfits with rhinestones and sassy T-straps. Ford and Bowen are kitted out in those gloriously elegant forties suits that seem to be designed with dancing in mind, supplemented by fedoras, vests, and two-toned brogues. What's not to like?

Oh, the audience. We were horrible! If you have cabaret seating be forewarned you'll be sitting at a small table on the stage, with these fearsomely stylish actors occasionally playing off you. I of the puffy coat and sensible shoes want to apologize to the cast and my fellow extras for said apparel, but in my defense I wasn't aware there was any such thing as cabaret seating, let alone that I had it. Further buzzkill: house manager opens the theatre by intoning into the lobby: "Ladies and gentlemen, if you have cabaret seating, you may take your nonalcoholic drinks into the theater..." Ain't much of a chance for misbehavin'.

—Sally Mitani

Wooten's comedy set in small-town Texas about 3 sisters trying to make it through the holidays. While one is weeks overdue with her 2nd set of twins, another is in jail for accidentally burning down half the town, and the third is trying to keep the church Christmas pageant from spiraling out of control. 8 p.m., *Riverside Arts Center*, 76 N. Huron St., Ypsilanti. Tickets \$18 (students & seniors, \$12; Thurs., pay what you can) in advance at [showtix4u.com](http://showtix4u.com) & by phone. 483-7345.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": *Purple Rose Theatre Company*. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Joe DeVito: *Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase*. Dec. 8-10. Up-and-coming New York City comic whose act is a fast-paced blend of self-deprecating storytelling with mordantly irreverent observational one-liners. He was one of the principal writers for Morgan Spurlock's satirical documentary *Super Size Me*. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$10 (Thurs.) & \$13 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$12 (Thurs.) & \$15 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

"Little Women": *Wild Swan Theater*. See 8 Thursday. 10 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Advent Noon Recital: *First Presbyterian Church*. See 2 Friday. Today: soprano **Lorna Hildebrandt** performs Advent music. 12:15-12:45 p.m.

"Tea with the Fairies": *Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room*. Crazy Wisdom staff dress up as fairies to sprinkle fairy dust and serve tea, petits fours, and cookies to kids and their families. Also, fairy stories and readings. Bring your own fairy wings and dolls. 1 & 4 p.m., *Crazy Wisdom*, 114 S. Main. \$10.50 (babies age 18 months & younger, free). Preregistration required. 665-2757.

★Maize 'n' Blue *Intrasquad*: *U-M Women's Gymnastics*. The U-M women's gymnastics team, which finished 6th nationally last year, prepares for the 2011-2012 season with an intrasquad meet. 6 p.m., *Crisler Arena*, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

"Holiday Beers": *Cranbrook Whole Foods Market*. Tastings of 6 winter beers. 6-7 p.m., *Whole Foods wine bar*, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., *Cranbrook Village shopping center*. \$6. Preregistration required. 997-7500.

"Community Studio Holiday Show": *Yourist Studio Gallery*. Dec. 9-11. Show and sale of works by around a dozen of the studio's members, with everything from beads to sculpture to everyday functional ware. 5-9 p.m. (Dec. 9), 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (Dec. 10), & 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 11), *Yourist Studio Gallery*, 1133 Broadway. Free admission. 662-4914.

★"Christmas Odyssey": *Dexter United Methodist Church*. December 9 & 10. All invited to tour the church's elaborate interactive theater work. Groups of 10 (beginning every three minutes) are escorted

## 9 FRIDAY

"Nature's Music": *Leslie Science and Nature Center* "Tiny Tot Time." All kids ages 1-3 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited to make animal noisemakers, listen for birds on a hike, and see what sounds they can make with natural objects. Snacks provided; dress for the outdoors. 10-11:30 a.m., *Leslie Science Center*, 1831 Traver Rd. \$8 per child. 997-1533.



between rooms in the church fellowship hall, where costumed actors re-create biblical scenes in 12 different tableaux running from the Garden of Eden to the Bethlehem stable with Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus. 6-9 p.m., DUMC, 7643 Huron River Dr., Dexter. Free. 426-8480.

**Team USA Under-17 vs. Omaha.** The younger of the 2 Ann Arbor-based USA Hockey national development teams plays this U.S. Hockey League rival. Team USA Under-17 also has matches this month against Cedar Rapids (Dec. 15, 7 p.m. & Dec. 17, 3 p.m.), and Team USA Under-18 has USHL matches against Cedar Rapids (Dec. 16) and Muskegon (Dec. 17). 7 p.m. unless otherwise noted, Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. \$6 (seniors, students, & children, \$4; kids under 5, free). 327-9251.

★**"Polar Express Pajama Party":** Barnes & Noble. Barnes & Noble staff (in costume) present an interactive reading of Chris Van Allsburg's Caldecott Medal-winning tale of a magical train ride on Christmas Eve. The reading includes a break for hot chocolate, a sing-along of holiday songs, and a visit from Santa. For kids age 3 & up. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**"Festive Friday":** Main Street Area Association. Dec. 9 & 16. Local entertainers stroll the sidewalks beneath trees twinkling with 100,000 Christmas lights, with many stores open late. Also, free horse-drawn carriage rides. Entertainment includes theater by Center Stage Productions, the local semi-professional madrigal ensemble Arbor Consort, the U-M a cappella ensemble Kopitonez, swordplay stunts by Ring of Steel, juggler Ben Ruetenik, and (Dec. 16 only) the U-M Women's Glee Club and the Pioneer High School all-female a cappella ensemble The Loreleis. 7-9 p.m., downtown area bounded by Main, Liberty, Washington, and Fourth Ave. Free. 668-7112.

★**Crazy Wisdom Reading Circle: Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room.** All invited to join a discussion of Howard Friedman and Leslie Martin's *The Longevity Project: Surprising Discoveries for Health and Long Life from the Landmark Eight-Decade Study*. 7-9:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. Free. 665-2757.

★**Mark Webster Reading Series: U-M English Department.** Fiction readings by U-M creative writing grad students Kendra Langford Shaw and Jennifer Lee Riemenschnieder. 7 p.m., UMMA Auditorium, 525 S. State. Free. 615-3710.

**Annual Poetry Night: The Neutral Zone.** Readings by slam poets Coert Ambrosino, Adam Faulkner, and Molly Raynor, who are all Ann Arbor natives. Also, readings by poets from the local troupe Ann Arbor Wordworks and by local high school poets from the VOLUME poetry project. 7 p.m., Rackham Auditorium. Tickets \$10 (students, \$5) in advance; \$12 (students, \$7) at the door. 223-7443.

★**"A Boychoir Christmas":** Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Dec. 9 & 10 (different locations). Boychoir founder Tom Strode directs this local ensemble of boys ages 9-17 in its 25th annual Christmas concert. The program opens with the processional "Once in royal David's city," with the 1st verse sung by a solo boy, and concludes with John Gardner's "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day." Also, the first 5 movements of Vivaldi's *Gloria* (with boy soloists singing the "Laudamus te" duet) and a variety of carols and hymns from Vaughan Williams' "The blessed son of God" and Rutter's "Candlelight Carol" to the Renaissance carol "Psallite, unigenito," along with "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and the joyous Nigerian carol "Betelehemu." The Boychoir's Preparatory Choir for boys ages 7-10 also performs Bach's setting of "Away in a Manger" and the Italian carol "Dormi, dormi." Audience sing-alongs of "Hark! The herald angels sing" and "O come, all ye faithful" are kicked off with a soaring Boychoir descant verse. This popular annual concert usually draws a full house, so get your tickets in advance. 7 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 300 N. Washington, Ypsilanti. Tickets \$15 (students & seniors, \$10; youths 17 & under, \$5) in advance at aaboychoir.org and at the door. 663-5377.

★**"Go, Dog, Go":** EMU Theater Department. See 2 Friday. 7 p.m.

**U-M Ice Hockey vs. MSU.** 7:30 p.m., Yost Ice Arena, 1016 S. State. \$25 & \$30. 764-0247.

**Holiday Show: Saline Varsity Blues.** Dec. 9 & 10. This 100-member chorus of singers ages 7-18 presents a program of solo, duo, and small-group vocal performances of contemporary and traditional holiday songs. This year's theme is "All Aboard the Polar Express." 7:30 p.m., Saline Middle School auditorium, 7190 N. Maple, Saline. Tickets (cost TBA) available in advance and at the door. 944-3162.

★**"Wintertime Cheer":** Women's Chamber Chorus. David Perample directs this independent 30-member local women's chorus in a concert of seasonal music, including spirituals, carols, and novelty tunes. Also, a performance by the group's Joyous Ringers hand-



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bell choir. Piano accompanist is Andrew Anderson. 7:30 p.m., *West Side United Methodist Church*, 900 S. Seventh at Davis. Donations accepted. 665-9271.

★**"Uncle Vanya": U-M Residential College Drama Concentration.** U-M drama lecturer Kate Mendeloff directs RC students in scenes from this Chekhovian masterpiece, a richly varied ensemble piece about the search for happiness—from love, achievement, or nature—at various stages of life. 7:30 p.m., *RC Keene Auditorium, East Quad, 701 East University*. Free. 647-4354.

★**Angell Hall Observatory Open House: U-M Student Astronomical Society.** All invited to peer through the telescopes in the observatory and on the Angell Hall roof and to view shows in the planetarium. Also, short astronomy presentations by club members. 8-10 p.m., *5th floor rooftop observatory, Angell Hall (from the large State St. entrance, take one of the elevators on the left)*. Free. 764-3440.

★**Student Songwriter Showcase: The Ark.** In-the-round performances by 3 U-M student singer-songwriters competing for an opening performance at the Ark. 8 p.m., *UMMA, 525 S. State*. Free. 761-1451.

★**Christmas Concert: Concordia University Music Department.** The Concordia Choir and Wind Ensemble are joined by the local *Today's Brass Quintet* for a program of hymns and other Christmas music. 8 p.m., *Concordia Chapel of the Holy Trinity, 4090 Geddes*. Free. 995-7389.

★**"Aspects of Love": U-M School of Music.** U-M faculty recital featuring baritone Stephen Lusmann and pianist Logan Skelton in a program featuring settings of e. e. cummings love poems to Ravel's *Chansons Gregues*, along with Mahler's *Rückert Lieder*, Liszt's *Tre Sonetti di Petrarca*, and works by Skelton. 8 p.m., *U-M Music School Britton Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz (off Broadway), North Campus*. Free. 764-0594.

**Katie Geddes & Friends: Green Wood Coffee House Series (First United Methodist Church).** An evening of acoustic music hosted by Geddes, a local folksinger who sings in a clear, strong voice. Her repertoire includes songs by everyone from Buffy Sainte-Marie and John Prine to Michael Nesmith and Lennon & McCartney, and her recent CD *We Are Each Other's Angels* has been getting airplay around the world. The lineup includes Massachusetts singer-songwriter Don White (see 2 Friday listing), veteran Detroit folksinger Matt Watroba, and All about Eve, the vocal trio of Geddes, Deb Wood, and Debra Gerber. They specialize in close-harmony pop, folk, and gospel tunes, some performed a cappella and some accompanied on guitar or piano. 8 p.m., *FUMC Green Wood Church, 1001 Green Rd. at Glazier Way*. \$15 (kids 10 & under, 2 for the price of 1) in advance and at the door. 662-4536, 662-8558.

**Paul VornHagen Trio: Kerrytown Concert House.** This jazz trio, led by award-winning local saxophonist-flutist-vocalist VornHagen, celebrates the release of its new CD with "The American Songbook of Jazz," a program that features originals as well as works by Duke Ellington, Thelonius Monk, Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, Gershwin, and others. With pianist Phil Kelly and bassist Kurt Krahnke. 8 p.m., *KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave.* Tickets \$15-30 (students, \$10). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

★**Chamber Choir and University Choir: EMU Music Department.** Trey Jacobs directs these 2 music student ensembles in a program of choral music TBA. 8 p.m., *EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti*. Free. 487-2255.

★**"Viva Ginastera!": U-M School of Music.** Dec. 9-11. Tonight: Christopher James Lees leads the *University Philharmonia Orchestra and Percussion Ensemble* in works by the celebrated Argentine modernist composer Alberto Ginastera, including the joyful *Symphonic Celebration*, the daring and rarely performed *Cantata para America Magica*, (with U-M music faculty soprano Caroline Helton), and Piano Sonata No. 1, featuring U-M music grad student Giovanni-Rey Vercelles de Pedro. 8 p.m., *Hill Auditorium*. Free. 764-0594.

★**"The Way I See It": U-M Dance Department** B.F.A. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Little Women": U-M Musical Theatre Studio.** See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Christmas Belles": PTD Productions.** See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Fugue": New Theatre Project.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"The Beaux' Stratagem": U-M Theatre Department.** See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**Joe DeVito: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 8 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 10 SATURDAY

★**Ann Arbor Antiques Market.** Large show and sale of antiques in various styles from Americana to Art Deco. No reproductions are allowed, experts check every booth, and the items' authenticity is guaranteed. Deliveries available. Concessions. No pets. 8 a.m.-4 p.m., *Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.* \$6 (children age 12 & under accompanied by an adult, free). (937) 875-0808 (before the show), 429-3145 (day of show).

★**Eco-Restoration Workday: U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum.** Dec. 10 & 17. All invited to help Matthaei staff members remove invasive plants. Dress for outdoor work. Snacks and tools provided, or bring your own. 9 a.m.-noon, meet at the Arb Reader Center (Dec. 10), 1610 Washington Hts., & Matthaei (Dec. 17), 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. Registration requested. 647-8528.

★**Huron Gun Collectors.** Dec. 10 & 11. About 100 dealers and collectors offer guns, knives, ammunition, and other hunting equipment for sale, including antiques and collectibles. Concessions. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (Sat.) & 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (Sun.), *Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd.* Admission \$4. (517) 605-0624.

★**"18th Annual Cookie Walk": First United Methodist Church.** Sale of homemade cookies, including decorated sugar cookies, Russian tea cakes, snickerdoodles, peanut blossoms, and more. Proceeds benefit church missions. 9 a.m. until sold out (often before 11 a.m.), *FUMC, 120 S. State at Huron*. Free admission. 662-2745.

★**The Tiny Expo.** Show and sale of holiday gifts by local artists and crafters. Food available. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., *327 Braun Ct.* \$5 suggested donation. 678-7976.

★**Greens Workshop: Ann Arbor Garden Club.** Club members help participants make a take-home wreath. Bring a vase if you wish to create an arrangement instead. Followed by a potluck. 10 a.m.-noon, *Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd.* \$15 materials fee. Reservations required. 665-7072.

★**Annual Holiday Book Shop: Friends of the Ann Arbor District Library.** Dec. 10 & 11. With used puzzles and games, along with gift-quality books. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (Dec. 10) & 1-4 p.m. (Dec. 11), *AADL lower level, 343 S. Fifth Ave.* Free admission. 302-7774.

★**"Paper Making": Ann Arbor Solid Waste Department.** All invited to make a colorful sheet of recycled paper using torn paper, water, and everyday household supplies. Also, display of "tree-free" papers. Followed by guided tours of the city's recycling and trash processing center. 10 a.m.-noon, *Materials Recovery Facility, 4120 Platt Rd.* Free. 994-2807.

★**Children of the Earth Club: Leslie Science and Nature Center.** All kids in grades 2 & above invited to join local singer-songwriter and environmental educator Joe Reilly in nature songs and environmentally themed games and outdoor activities. 10 a.m.-noon, *Leslie Science Center, 1831 Traver Rd.* \$8 per child in advance, \$10 per child at the door. 997-1533.

★**"Baking Pizzelle": Downtown Home & Garden.** DH&G staffer Barb Kraft shares her family recipe and demonstrates techniques for making these traditional Italian holiday waffle cookies. 10 a.m.-noon, *Downtown Home & Garden, 210 S. Ashley*. Free. 662-8122.

★**"Art on Adare."** A holiday show and sale of jewelry, fiber, and glass art by Idelle Hammond-Sass, Carol Furtado, and Janet Kelman. Refreshments. Noon-6 p.m., *1510 Kearney at Adare (off Melrose via Tuomy from Washtenaw)*. Free admission. 741-4441.

★**"Professor Ray's Everyday Science": Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum.** Dec. 10, 11, 17, & 18. Museum staffers give family-friendly science demos. Dec. 10 & 11: "Air Apparent" includes experiments with air pressure, from crushing a can to levitating objects. Dec. 17 & 18: "Luminosity" features experiments with light, such as making a dill pickle light up. 1 & 3 p.m., *AAHOM, 220 E. Ann*. \$10 regular admission (members & kids under age 2, free). 995-5439.

★**"Culture Jamming: A Long View Back": Ann Arbor District Library.** Panel discussion with local counterculture legend John Sinclair and 4 other former members of the local White Panthers and Rainbow People's Party, Leni Sinclair, Pun Plamondon, David Fenton, and Genie Parker. Moderated by U-M American culture professor Bruce Conforth, a founding curator of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum. In conjunction with the launch of the AADL Freeing John Sinclair website. 1-2:30 p.m., *Michigan Union Pendleton Room*. Free. 327-4555.

★**"You Wrote a Novel, Now What?: Revision and Marketing Strategies": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk for adults and teens in grade 9 & up by



local writers **Shutta Crum**, a nationally known children's author, and **Karen Simpson**, an award-winning young adult novelist. 2-4 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**YAMS Book Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of *The Christmas Cookie Club*, local psychotherapist Ann Pearlman's popular debut novel about a group of women who meet every December to eat cookies and discuss their lives, from financial problems to risky pregnancies. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**"Go, Dog, Go": EMU Theater Department.** See 2 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"Little Women": Wild Swan Theater.** See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**Family Fun: Oz's Music Environment.** Every Sat. except Dec. 3. Families invited to get onstage to sing and make music on a variety of instruments. 3-4 p.m., Oz's, 1920 Packard. \$15 per family. 662-8283.

★**"Paralympic Powerlifter": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living sports coordinator **Mary Stack**, a U.S. national record-holding weightlifter who is currently training for the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. 3-4:30 p.m., AADL Malletts Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-4555.

★**Youth Orchestra Concert: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts.** Performances by the AASPA Sterling String Orchestra, Junior String Orchestra, Youth Symphony Orchestra, and the New Horizons Senior Strings Orchestra. The program includes Elliot Del Borgo's Concertino in G major, Michael Hopkins' *Winds of Autumn*, Brahms' Hungarian Dance no. 6, music from *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* and *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and more. 3 p.m., Michigan Theater. Free. 213-2000.

★**Early Music Ensemble: U-M School of Music.** Edward Parmentier leads this music student ensemble in Tallis' *The Lamentations of Jeremiah*, as well as works by Byrd, Monteverdi, Hassle, Telemann, Marais, J.S. Bach, Philidor, and Couperin. 4 p.m., U-M Music School Blanche Anderson Moore Recital Hall, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★**"Sing Along with Santa": Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra.** This popular annual family concert features a carol sing-along led by local children's entertainer Ron Lloyd as Santa. Musicians include the ensemble Penny Fischer and the Ann Arbor Flutes, the Pioneer High School choral group the Pioneers, and pianist Lori Zupan. Santa also reads *'Twas the Night Before Christmas*. Followed by cookies, apple cider, and photos with Santa. 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10 in advance at the AASO office (220 E. Huron, suite 470) and at a2so.com, and at the door. 994-4801.

★**Ann Arbor Young Contra Dancers: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Live music by Stout Hearted String Band. For students and people in their 20s & 30s. Beginners welcome. No partner necessary. Bring flat, smooth-soled shoes. 5-8 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). \$9 (members, \$8; students, \$5). (248) 417-7968.

★**"Christmas Around the World": Ann Arbor Assembly of God.** An international potluck dinner followed by a children's Christmas play. Bring a dish to pass. 5:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Assembly of God, 2455 Washtenaw. Free. 769-4157.

★**Annual Fall Concert: U-M Gospel Chorale.** Gospel music by this coed a cappella ensemble. Also, performances by the Taking Refuge Uttering Spoken Truth (TRUST) poetry team and the Images of Praise interpretive dance team. 5:30 p.m., location TBA. Cost TBA. (313) 549-9614, (313) 618-2606.

★**Arts in Motion Dance Studio.** Recital by Arts in Motion music students and a demo by upper-level dance students. The culmination of a daylong open house (9 a.m.-5 p.m.). 5:30 p.m., Arts in Motion, 2841 Boardwalk. Free. 222-6246.

★**"Lantern-Lit Full Moon Walk": Leslie Science and Nature Center.** All invited to join an enchanting lantern-lit walk through Black Pond Woods. 6-7:30 p.m., LSN, 1831 Traver Rd. \$6 (family, \$21) in advance, \$8 (family, \$30) at the door. 997-1533.

★**"Annual Holiday Kirtan": Ann Arbor Kirtan.** All invited to join a group performance of this traditional devotional call-and-response music based on Hindu Vaishnava texts and the writings of poet/saints. Accompanied by live music based on rhythmic Indian ragas on bass guitar, tabla, and drums. The program begins with a social hour (bring a healthy snack or dessert to share). Tea is served. 6:30-9:30 p.m., Friends Meetinghouse, 1420 Hill St. Free, but donations accepted. 761-7435.

★**Maize 'n' Blue Intrasquad: U-M Men's Gymnastics.** The U-M men's gymnastics team, which finished 6th nationally last year, prepares for the

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Gallup Park Canoe Livery  
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These organizations have become members of Community Partners for Clean Streams: a partnership working to protect Washtenaw County waterways. The 2011 Environmental Excellence Award winners are listed in bold. Please join me in recognizing and supporting all of our Partners.

- **Janis A. Bobrin, Washtenaw County Water Resources Commissioner**

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2011-2012 season with an intrasquad meet. 7 p.m., Cliff Keen Arena, S. State at Hoover. Free. 764-0247.

**3rd Annual Charity Concert: U-M Kopitonez.** This student a cappella ensemble performs contemporary pop music. Also, performances by the **Element 1** breakdancing crew, the **U-M Ballroom Dance Team** (tentative), and other groups TBA. Proceeds benefit the Asia Foundation "Books for Asia" fund. 7 p.m., Angell Hall Auditorium B. \$10. [erynhong@umich.edu](mailto:erynhong@umich.edu).

**Fall Concert: U-M 58 Greene.** This coed a cappella ensemble performs rock, soul, R&B, and pop songs. 7 p.m., MLB Auditorium 3, 812 E. Washington. \$8 at the door. [umich.edu/~corundum](http://umich.edu/~corundum).

**Holiday Show: Saline Varsity Blues.** See 9 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

**Fall Concert: U-M Gimble.** This coed a cappella ensemble performs everything from Ingrid Michaelson's "Breakable" to Mumford & Sons' "Timshel." 8 p.m., location TBA. Cost TBA. [umich.edu/~gimble](http://umich.edu/~gimble)

**Ballroom Dancing Night: Pittsfield Township Parks and Recreation Department.** Ballroom dancing to recorded music from the last several decades. Singles and couples invited. Refreshments. Preceded at 7 p.m. by a lesson. 8-10:30 p.m., Pittsfield Twp. Recreation Hall, S. State at Ellsworth. \$5. 822-2120.

**"Great Expectations": Grand Traditions Vintage Dance Academy 19th-Century Ball.** Various 19th-century dances that were popular during Dickens' lifetime. With live music by Childgrove. Regency or mid-19th-century attire encouraged—or come as your favorite Dickens character. Preceded at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. by dance workshops (\$10 each). 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$30 (includes workshops). Preregistration requested at [vintagedance.com](http://vintagedance.com). 769-0041.

**Benefit Concert: Canterbury House.** Performances by local bands TBA. 8 p.m., Canterbury House, 721 E. Huron St. \$5. 764-3162.

**David Mosher: Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth Cafe 704 Coffeehouse.** Local singer-songwriter and multi-instrumental string virtuoso who plays bluegrass, jazz, folk-rock, and original tunes. 8-10 p.m., Interfaith Center for Spiritual Growth, 704 Airport Blvd. \$8 (\$15 for 2). 665-0409.

**"Can't We Be Friends?: A Holiday Gift from Bolcom & Morris": Kerrytown Concert House.** The world-renowned local husband-and-wife duo of pianist William Bolcom (also a Pulitzer Prize-winning composer) and mezzo-soprano Joan Morris performs Bolcom's cabaret songs as well as classics and obscure gems of American popular song. A writer for the *Chicago Sun Times* called them "the best thing to happen to American popular song since the invention of sheet music." Tonight also includes a preview of songs from a new CD set to be released in 2012. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$15-\$30 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

**\*"Viva Ginastera!": U-M School of Music.** See 9 Friday. Tonight: Kenneth Kiesler leads the **University Symphony Orchestra** in Alberto Ginastera's three piano concertos, featuring respected pianist **Barbara Nissman** (see review, p. 65). Tonight marks the official reintroduction of Ginastera's *Concierto Argentino*, written in 1935 and later withdrawn. Nissman was granted exclusive performance rights by Ginastera's widow. Preceded at 7:15 p.m. by a lecture by MSU music professor Carol Hess. 8 p.m.

**Women's Glee Club: U-M School of Music.** Julie Skadsem directs this ensemble of nonmusic majors in works by Porpora, Daley, Dengler, Hyokki, Busto, Ramsey, and Jeffers. 8 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. \$15 general admission, (students, \$5), available in advance by emailing [umwgc-exec@umich.edu](mailto:umwgc-exec@umich.edu), and at the door. 764-0594.

**Orpheum Bell.** This local self-styled acoustic "country and eastern" quintet celebrates the release of their new album, *The Old Sisters Home*, with a show that includes video accompaniment to their richly musical, often ravishing blend of country-folk rhythms with Gypsy and other Eastern European melodies. The band draws on a diverse range of influences from the Carter Family, Grandpa Jones, and Gillian Welch to Kurt Weill, Tom Waits, and the Pogues. Its core sound blends vocals, accordion, guitar, and double bass, with additional texture and luster from violins, percussion, autoharp, and other instruments. Opening act is **Red Tail Ring**, the local duo of singer-songwriters Michael Beauchamp and Laurel Premo. They play Appalachian folk and old-time music with haunting vocal harmonies. 8 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$16.50 in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & [mutotix.com](http://mutotix.com), and at the door. 763-TKTS.

**"Little Women": U-M Musical Theatre Studio.** See 8 Thursday. 2 & 8 p.m.

**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.



"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Christmas Belles": PTD Productions. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Fugue": New Theatre Project. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"The Beaux' Stratagem": U-M Theatre Department. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

Joe DeVito: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 8 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## II SUNDAY

"Home Grown at the Cobblestone." Nov. 27 and Dec. 11 & 18. Show and sale of works by local artists, including hand-dyed silks, photography, jewelry, painting, textiles, bricolage, pottery, and more. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Cobblestone Farm, 2781 Packard. Free admission. 276-4025.

"12th Annual Art in the Barn": The Yellow Barn. Show and sale of works by local artists. Also, food vendors and live music. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., the Yellow Barn, 416 W. Huron. Free admission. theyellowbarn@gmail.com.

"Santa Central": Hudson Mills Metropark Interpretive Nature Programs. Kids invited to visit with Santa, play reindeer games, and enjoy a hayride. Snack. 10 a.m. and 12:30 & 2:30 p.m., Hudson Mills Activity Center, 8801 North Territorial Rd., Dexter. \$6 per child; kids under age 1, free. Preregistration required. \$5 vehicle entrance fee. 426-8211.

"Holiday Figure Skating Exhibition": Ann Arbor Figure Skating Club. AAFSC members of various ages and skating levels present solo, duo, and ensemble performances. Also, a performance by the AAFSC Hockettes synchronized skating team. Noon-2 p.m., Ann Arbor Ice Cube, 2121 Oak Valley Dr. at Scio Church Rd. Cash or canned food donation for Food Gatherers. 213-6768.

"Dancing Babies": Ann Arbor District Library. First Steps Washtenaw instructor Monica Higman leads infants through 5-year-olds (accompanied by an adult) in a program of music and movement. 1-1:40 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

"Chesstastic!": Ann Arbor District Library. All kids and adults invited to play chess. Sets provided. 1-4 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-4555.

47th Annual Community Messiah Sing. All interested people capable of reading and performing the vocal parts are invited to join this friendly, informal, unrehearsed performance of Handel's beloved oratorio. Between 150 and 200 singers usually participate, including professionals, semiprofessionals, serious amateurs, families, and church choirs. A volunteer orchestra of 35 to 45 instrumentalists is also needed; prospective players should call the number below as soon as possible to ensure section balance. Directed by Richard Ingram. Scores provided, or participants may bring their own. (The Prout edition, published by Schirmer, is used.) Orchestra players should bring their own stands and be ready for a warm-up at 12:45 p.m. Cider, water, and hot tea provided; bring goodies to share. 1 p.m., St. Clare Episcopal Church, 2309 Packard. \$5 suggested donation to help defray cost of using the building. Prospective orchestra members should contact Meg Gower at megower@umich.edu or 433-0150.

"Skippyjon Jones": Theatreworks USA (Michigan Theater Foundation Not Just for Kids Series). This renowned New York City-based children's theater troupe returns to the Michigan Theater to present its colorful, funny, fast-paced musical based on Judy Schachner's book about the big-eared kitten with a big imagination who dons a mask and transforms himself into Skippito Friskito, the greatest canine sword fighter in old Mexico. 1:30 p.m., Michigan Theater. Tickets \$14 (MTF members, \$12) in advance at the Michigan Union Ticket Office & all other Ticketmaster outlets, and at the door. To charge by phone, call (800) 745-3000.

"Woody Plants of Goodrich Preserve: Berries, Buds, and Bark": Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission. Hike led by WCPARC naturalist Faye Stoner. 2-4 p.m., Goodrich Preserve, meet on Dixboro Rd. 1/2 mile north of Plymouth Rd. Free. 971-6337, ext. 334.

Advanced English Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. With live music by Childgrove. For experienced dancers. 2-5:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). \$10. (248) 288-4737.

"Holiday Cookies": Preserving Traditions. All invited to make holiday cookies. 2-4:30 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$5 (Grange members, free). Prereg-

istration required by emailing preservetrad@gmail.com. 997-8844.

"Face of Our Time": UMMA. Docent-led tour of this exhibit of photos by 5 photographers who explore the sometimes volatile civil and political transformations facing contemporary society. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763-UMMA.

\*Gabriel Richard High School Madrigal Singers: Barnes & Noble. Anne Kolaczowski-Magee directs this high school ensemble in a program of traditional Christmas music. 2 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

\*Shape Note Singing: Ann Arbor Sacred Harp. All invited to join an afternoon of shape note, or sacred harp, singing, a form of communal hymn singing that has its roots in colonial America. Sacred Harp songbooks available, but singers encouraged to bring their own. 2-5 p.m., The Ark, 316 S. Main. Free, but donations accepted for music scholarships. 678-7549, 761-1451.

Michigan Marching Band Annual Crisler Concert. A festive concert featuring highlights of the past season's pregame and halftime shows, plus U-M school songs. 2 p.m., Crisler Arena. Tickets \$10 (kids age 11 & under, \$3) in advance at Revelli Hall, and at the door. 764-0582.

\*U-M Euphonium and Tuba Ensemble: U-M School of Music. Fritz Kaenzig directs this music student ensemble in works TBA. 2 p.m., U-M Music School McIntosh Theater, 1100 Baitz Dr. (off Broadway), North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

"The Nutcracker": Dance Alliance. Lisa Darby Clark directs local dancers and members of Jazz Dance Theatre in a production of Tchaikovsky's ballet. 2 & 7 p.m., Ellen Ewing Performing Arts Center, Saline High School, 1300 Campus Pkwy., Saline. Tickets \$13 in advance at the Dancer's Boutique (2414 E. Stadium) & Dance Alliance (811 W. Michigan, Saline), and at the door. 429-9599.

"Go, Dog, Go": EMU Theater Department. See 2 Friday. 2 p.m.

"Little Women": Wild Swan Theater. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Little Women": U-M Musical Theatre Studio. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Christmas Belles": PTD Productions. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"The Beaux' Stratagem": U-M Theatre Department. See 8 Thursday. 2 p.m.

"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 p.m.

\*Holiday Concert: Dexter Community Band. Bill Gourley directs this 85-member volunteer ensemble in a program of holiday music, including such favorites as Leroy Anderson's "Sleigh Ride," Glen Ballard's Polar Express concert suite, Bruce Broughton's Overture to Miracle on 34th Street, and more. Also, a Christmas sing-along, and Santa visits with a bag of treats for kids. 3 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker, Dexter. Free. 426-2734.

\*"Community Read-Aloud: Dickens' A Christmas Carol": Concordia University. All invited to read part of Concordia University English professor Mark Looker's adaptation of Dickens' own reading script of his classic Christmas tale. 3 p.m., Concordia University Earhart Manor Living Room, 4090 Geddes. Free. 995-7389.

Cheese Tasting: Zingerman's Creamery. Zingerman's cheesemaker Josh Minor discusses Zingerman's current seasonal cheeses and the farmers it gets its raw material from. Taste samples. 4-5:30 p.m., Zingerman's Creamery, 3723 Plaza Dr. \$20. 929-0500.

\*"The Danish Girl": Rainbow Book Club. All invited to join a discussion of David Ebershoff's novel inspired by the life of Danish painter Einar Wegener who, in 1931, became the first man to have a sex-change operation. 4:30-7 p.m., location TBA. Free. 763-4168.

\*Booked for Murder Mystery Book Club: Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss Bone Rattler, Eliot Pattison's novel, set in colonial America during the French and Indian War, about a Scottish indentured servant who attempts to solve several mysterious deaths on the ship that brought him to New York. 4:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 769-2149.

"All About the Trio": Kerrytown Concert House. U-M jazz pianist Ellen Rowe leads her trio in a lecture-concert exploring prominent trio plus trumpet albums, including the famous recording Clark Terry made with the Oscar Peterson Trio. With guest trumpeter Ingrid Jensen, bassist Paul Keller, and drummer Pete Siers. 4:30 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth



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★**Orpheus Singers:** U-M School of Music. Grad students conduct this music student ensemble in Zelenka's Magnificat in D, Mozart's Missa Brevis, and Vivaldi's Gloria in D. 7 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

★**Christmas Concert:** Northside Community Church. Chris Grapentine directs the church's chancel choir and Sheree Clark directs the bell choir in a program of both familiar and new holiday music. With pianist Kathryn Goodson. Reception follows. 7:30 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662-6351.

★**"Viva Ginastera!":** U-M School of Music. See 9 Friday. Tonight: The Michigan Chamber Players music faculty ensemble performs Duo for Flute and Oboe, *Danzas Argentinas*, *Impresiones de la Puna*, and Quintetto for Piano and Strings. 8 p.m.

## 12 MONDAY

★**"Girls in the Kitchen: How a Top Chef Thinks, Shops, Eats, and Drinks":** Ann Arbor District Library. U-M grad Stephanie Izard, the winner of the 2008 competition on Bravo's *Top Chef*, discusses her new cookbook. Signing. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room, 343 S. Fifth Ave. at William. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Gettysburg: Behind the Scenes":** Ann Arbor Civil War Round Table. Talk by Gettysburg National Military Park volunteer Bruce Vanisacker. 7 p.m., St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center, 5305 Elliott Dr. (off McAuley Dr. from Huron River Dr.). Free. (517) 750-2741.

★**"Health Talks":** Washtenaw Whole Foods Market. Dec. 12 & 19. Talks by local chiropractors. Dec. 12: Shannon Roznay on "Stress and Fatigue." Dec. 19: Amanda Childress on "Parasites in You!" 7-8 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. 975-4500.

★**"Off the Wall":** U-M School of Art & Design. U-M students "rant, rave, protest, and proclaim" in this performance inspired by their work on the It Gets Better Project, a website devoted to suicide intervention for LGBT youth. 7 p.m., Shvau!, 325 Braun Ct. Cost TBA. 936-0671.

## 13 TUESDAY

★**"Ari's Top 30 Foods: The Best of 2011":** Zingerman's Delicatessen. Nov. 29 & Dec. 13. Zingerman's cofounder Ari Weinzwieg discusses and offers taste samples of some of his favorite Zingerman's products, from South African vinegars, French sardines, and Tanzanian chocolate to locally made caraway rye and cosmic cakes. 6-8 p.m., Zingerman's Events on 4th, Fourth Ave. just south of Kingsley. \$45 in advance, \$50 (if available) at the door. 663-3354.

★**Cooking Demos:** Cranbrook Whole Foods Market. Dec. 13 & 14. Demos by Whole Foods staffers on holiday appetizers (Dec. 13) and standing rib roast (Dec. 14). 6 p.m., Whole Foods wine bar, 990 W. Eisenhower Pkwy., Cranbrook Village shopping center. \$10. Preregistration required. 997-7500.

★**Ann Arbor Backyard Beekeepers.** All invited to learn about the different shapes and construction of alternative hives, with a discussion of the difference between organic and biodynamic beekeeping and the pros and cons of both. 7-9 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, room 125, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 660-8621.

★**"Everest Base Camp Trek":** The Himalayan Bazaar. Local adventure tour company owner Heather O'Neal, who regularly travels to the Himalayas, shows a travel video about the Everest base camp. Also, information about an upcoming 3-week trip to Nepal. 7 p.m., Himalayan Bazaar, 218 S. Main. Free. 997-7229.

★**"Human and Raptor Relations through Time":** Leslie Science and Nature Center. Presentation by LSNC staff about our relationship with raptors from the first falconry bird to the present. 7-8 p.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. \$5 (family, \$20) in advance, \$7 (family, \$28) at the door. 997-1533.

★**"Grief 101: What to Expect When Grieving":** Ann Arbor District Library/Arbor Hospice Grief Support Services. Talk by an Arbor Hospice representative. 7-8 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-4555.

★**"Raw Winter":** People's Food Co-op. Talk by local raw foods advocate Ellen Livingston. 7-8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. Preregistration required at the co-op, by emailing outreach@peoplesfood.coop, or by phone. 994-4589.

★**"Uncommon Rhythm: A Black, White, Jewish, Jehovah's Witness, Irish Catholic Adoptee's**

**Journey to Leadership":** Ann Arbor District Library. Violinist and arts educator Aaron Dworkin discusses his recently published memoir. The founder and president of the Detroit-based Sphinx Organization—the leading national arts organization that focuses on youth development and diversity in classical music—Dworkin is a 2005 MacArthur Fellow and was President Obama's 1st nominee to the National Council on the Arts. Signing. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**Sierra Club Book Club:** Nicola's Books. All invited to discuss *The Nature Principle*, Richard Louv's book about the influence of nature on human health. 7:30 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 971-1157.

★**Treetown Community Chorus.** David Perample directs this independent local mixed chorus in a varied program of holiday music. Piano accompanist is Andrew Anderson. 7:30 p.m., West Side United Methodist Church, 900 S. Seventh St. Free; donations accepted. 355-7738.

★**University Choir:** U-M School of Music. Eugene Rogers leads this music student ensemble in works by MacMillan, Rossini, and Lauridsen. Tonight also features the premiere of Jeffrey Van's "The Garden by Moonlight." 8 p.m., Walgreen Drama Center Stamps Auditorium, 1226 Murfin, North Campus. Free. 764-0594.

## 14 WEDNESDAY

★**"Group Drumming: Music for the Health of It":** U-M Turner Senior Resource Center. All seniors invited to join music and health consultant Dianne Baker for drumming and singing. Drums provided. 1:30-2:30 p.m., Turner, 2401 Plymouth Rd. Free. 998-9353.

★**"Holiday Treats":** Washtenaw Whole Foods Market Kids Club. All kids invited to make healthy holiday treats. 3:30-4:30 p.m., Whole Foods Cooking & Lifestyles Classroom, 3135 Washtenaw. Free. Preregistration required. 975-4500.

★**"It Gets Better":** U-M School of Art & Design. Students screen videos they've created for the It Gets Better Project, a website devoted to suicide intervention for LGBT youth. 6:30 p.m., Work Ann Arbor, 306 S. State. Free. 936-0671.

★**"Drumunity!":** Lori Fithian, a local drummer and drum teacher, leads a drum circle. Instruments provided, or bring your own. Kids welcome. Preceded at 6:45 p.m. by a brief drum lesson. 7-9 p.m., Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room, 114 S. Main. Free. 426-7818.

★**"Linocut Printing":** Ann Arbor District Library. Adults and youth in grade 6 & up invited to learn to make linocut prints using linoleum blocks. Supplies provided. 6:30-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Open Mike":** Crazy Wisdom Bookstore & Tea Room. Dec. 14 & 28. All poets invited. Hosted by local poet David Mann, who also presents a 1-hour writing workshop after the open mike on Dec. 28. 6:30-8:30 p.m., Crazy Wisdom, 114 S. Main. \$10. 665-2757.

★**Fiction Book Club:** Barnes & Noble. All invited to join a discussion of *The Speed of Light*, Elizabeth Rosner's novel about a brother and sister coming to terms with their immigrant family's horrifying secret past. Refreshments. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**All School Orchestra Concert:** Greenhills School. The Upper School and Middle School orchestras perform holiday favorites and works by French masters. 7 p.m., Greenhills School Campbell Center for the Performing Arts, 850 Greenhills Dr. (off Earhart). Free. 205-4091.

★**"Vivaldi's Gloria":** Pioneer High School. The Pioneer choirs and Symphony Orchestra perform Vivaldi's popular Gloria in its entirety. 7:30 p.m., PHS Schreiber Auditorium, 601 W. Stadium at S. Main. Free. 994-2120.

★**"Outdoors":** UMMA Jazz Series/U-M School of Music. U-M jazz piano professor Ellen Rowe performs her new suite inspired by the culture of the Southwest, including Georgia O'Keefe's writing, Ansel Adams' photography, Native American monuments, and works in UMMA's permanent collection. With U-M jazz professor Andrew Bishop on saxophone. 8 p.m., UMMA Apse, 525 S. State. Free. 764-0594.

★**"Mad About Chamber Music":** Kerrytown Concert House. See 1 Thursday. U-M music professors Richard Aaron and Martin Katz direct students in the complete works of Beethoven for Cello and Piano. 8 p.m.

★**"Escanaba in da Moonlight":** Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.



"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 7 Wednesday, 8 p.m.

## 15 THURSDAY

★"Abortion Provision after Medical Residency": U-M Institute for Research on Women and Gender. University of California-San Francisco obstetrics-gynecology professor Jody Steinauer discusses her research on the factors that contribute to doctors' decisions to provide abortions once they've finished their residencies. Noon-1:30 p.m., 2239 Lane Hall, 204 S. State. Free. 764-9537.

★International Neighbors. All area women invited to sample teas from around the world. Nursery care provided for preschoolers. Refreshments. 1-2:30 p.m., Westminster Presbyterian Church social hall, 1500 Scio Church Rd. Free. 995-1645.

★"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday, 3 & 7 p.m.

★"An Evening of Christmas Music with Vocalist Dan Hays": Calvary Presbyterian Church. Performances by Flushing (MI) Christian singer Hays and other local musicians. 7 p.m., Calvary Presbyterian Church, 2727 Fernwood. Free. 971-3121.

★Annual Holiday Concert: Ypsilanti Community Choir/Washtenaw Community Concert Band. Ariel Toews-Ricotta directs the choir in a new arrangement of "Silent Night," the popular "Carol of the Drum," and local composer Karl Osterland's arrangement of "Rise Up Shepherd." Christopher Heidenreich conducts the band in Jerry Bilik's Christmas fantasy *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, John Jacob Niles' *I Wonder as I Wander*, and Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*. Local organist James Wagner performs local composer George Apple's arrangement of Handel's Organ Concerto. The program concludes with a joint band and choir performance of Leroy Anderson's "A Christmas Festival" and the "Hallelujah Chorus" from Handel's *Messiah*. The audience is encouraged to sing along. 7:30 p.m., EMU Pease Auditorium, W. Cross at College Place, Ypsilanti. Free. 481-9285.

★"Christmas Play": Father Gabriel Richard High School. Dec. 15-17. Anne Kolaczowski-Magee directs students in an original Christmas-themed drama. 7:30 p.m. (Dec. 15-17) & 2 p.m. (Dec. 17), GRHS, 4333 Whitehall Dr. (north off Plymouth just east of US-23). \$5. 662-0496.

★"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

★"3rd Thursdays": UMMA. Music, comedy, dance, and spoken word performances by U-M students. 8 p.m., UMMA Commons, 525 S. State. Free. 763-8662.

★Holiday Jazz Showcase: Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts. AASPA students perform works TBA. 8 p.m., Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 213-2000.

★"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday, 8 p.m.

★"Christmas Belles": PTD Productions. See 8 Thursday, 8 p.m.

David Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. Dec. 15-17. This polished Grand Rapids comic features his unexpected takes on everything from marriage and raising kids to current events and ear hair. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri. & Sat.) reserved seating in advance, \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri. & Sat.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 16 FRIDAY

Advent Noon Recital: First Presbyterian Church. See 2 Friday. Today: The First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir performs Christmas music. 12:15-12:45 p.m.

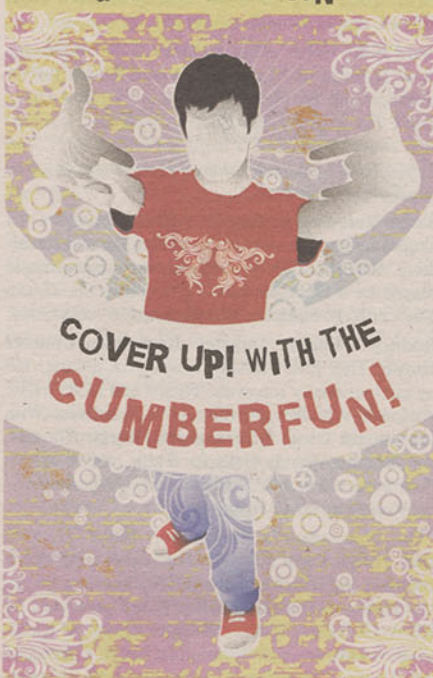
★Johnathan Rand: Nicola's Books. This popular young adult novelist reads from and discusses *The Nevada Nightmare Novel*, the 31st in his American Chillers series. 6 p.m., Nicola's, 2513 Jackson, Westgate shopping center. Free. 662-0600.

★"Fables: What's Your Story?": The Neutral Zone. A fairy tale-themed art show with works by local teen photographers, sculptors, painters, and others. Also, music performances by local teens. 7-10 p.m., Neutral Zone, 310 E. Washington. Free. 214-9995.

★"The Mysterious Rotating Signal from Saturn": University Lowbrow Astronomers. Talk by U-M atmospheric, oceanic, and space sciences professor Xianzhe Jia. 7:30 p.m., 130 Dennison, 500 Church. Free. 747-6585.

★Opera Theatre Showcase: EMU Music Department. EMU voice majors perform scenes from major operas TBA. 7:30 p.m., EMU Alexander Recital Hall, Lowell at E. Circle Dr., Ypsilanti. Free. 487-2255.

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"A Christmas Carol": Young Actors Guild. Dec. 16-18. Sue Roe directs young local actors in YAG's theatrical adaptation of Dickens' classic tale. Note: Kids age 11 & under must be accompanied by an adult. 7:30 p.m., Lydia Mendelssohn Theatre, 911 North University. Tickets \$15 (students through high school, \$10) in advance at [aayag.org](http://aayag.org), and at the door. 913-9800.

"Christmas Play": Father Gabriel Richard High School. See 15 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

3rd Friday Contra Dance: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance. With a variety of callers and live music by the Sharon Hollow String Band. For experienced dancers. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10 (students, \$5). 408-1829.

Sleigh Ride Dance: Parents Without Partners. All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by a DJ. Cash bar. 8 p.m.-midnight, Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$8 (members, \$6). 578-3664.

Rodney Whitaker Quartet: Kerrytown Concert House. This East Lansing-based jazz quartet, led by internationally renowned bassist and MSU music professor Whitaker, performs jazz standards. With saxophonist Diego Rivera, pianist Reggie Thomas, and drummer Randy Gelispie. 8 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$15-30 (students, \$10). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. Dec. 16-18. Carol Radovic directs this local dance company in its performance of Tchaikovsky's perennially popular Christmas ballet. Based on a story by E.T.A. Hoffmann, it tells the tale of a little girl whose magical nutcracker doll transports her to a fairyland on Christmas Eve. About 100 dancers perform, ranging from children to adults—some of the adult dancers have danced in the production since they were tots. 8 p.m., Power Center. Tickets \$24 (students & seniors, \$20; kids age 12 & under, \$14) available in advance at Michigan Union Ticket Office ([mutotix.com](http://mutotix.com)) and at the door. To charge by phone, call 763-TKTS.

"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Christmas Belles": PTD Productions. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Fugue": New Theatre Project. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

David Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 17 SATURDAY

65th Annual Christmas Bird Count: Washtenaw Audubon Society. The count area is a 15-mile-diameter circle centered on Ann Arbor; its 8 regions must be counted in a single day. This makeshift census may be off by thousands, but much useful information is gained by comparing the results from year to year. The count is also great fun, and everyone from novices to experienced birders is invited to volunteer for all or part of the day, either as a field observer or (if you have a bird feeder) as a feeder watcher. Some count regions also conduct predawn searches for owls. The results are tallied at a potluck dinner at Leslie Science & Nature Center this evening, 6 a.m. For instructions and further information, call Jacco Gelderloos at 973-9422. \$5 fee to defray costs of publishing the results in American Bird. To sign up as a feeder watcher, contact Kurt Hagemeyer at 663-9746 or [khagemeyer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:khagemeyer@sbcglobal.net).

Hanukkah Bazaar: Temple Beth Emeth. Dec. 17 & 18. Show and sale of menorahs, candles, dreidels, books, jewelry, music, art, gifts, and more. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. (Dec. 17) & 3-7:30 p.m. (Dec. 18), TBE, 2309 Packard. Free admission. 665-4744.

"Christmas Celebration": Aglow International. A Christmas party, followed by lunch and caroling at Courthouse Square Apartments. Aglow is an international Christian organization devoted to meeting people's spiritual needs. 9:30 a.m.-noon, 340 WCC Liberal Arts Bldg., 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 971-4545.

"Nature Tales": Leslie Science and Nature Center. All kids ages 1-5 (accompanied by a caregiver) invited to hear stories about furry mammals and learn to follow their tracks in the winter snow. 10-11 a.m., LSNC, 1831 Traver Rd. \$2 per person. 997-1533.

"Everyone's an Artist": U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens. All kids, accompanied by a parent, invited to celebrate the winter solstice by creating decorations from natural materials. 10 a.m.-noon, Matthaei, 1800 N. Dixboro. \$7 materials fee (includes conservatory admission). Reservations recommended. 647-7600.

★Classical Bells: Ann Arbor District Library. Darlene Ebersole directs this acclaimed Detroit-area handbell ensemble whose varied repertoire includes classical, inspirational, seasonal, popular, and even ragtime and swing tunes. 1-2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

"Jamie and Jordan": Performance Network Children's Theater Network. Royal Oak playwright Kim Carney's hilarious musical about the importance of both a healthy lifestyle and a healthy friendship. Milk & cookies. For prekindergartners through 5th-graders. 1 p.m., Performance Network, 120 E. Huron. Tickets \$10 (youth under age 16, \$7) in advance at [performancenetwork.org](http://performancenetwork.org) & by phone, and at the door. For reservations or to charge by phone, call 663-0681.

"A Boychoir Christmas": Boychoir of Ann Arbor. See 16 Friday. 3 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw.

★LezRead. All lesbians invited to bring their favorite gay and lesbian poetry and/or children's books to discuss. 4-6 p.m., Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Ct. Free. 663-0036.

★Cultural Show: Children's Russian Club. Tentative location. Local Russian children present L'Aiglon (The Eagle), Rostand's drama based on the life of Napoleon II. The play is performed in Russian, with English-language synopses provided. 5:30 p.m., WCC Liberal Arts and Sciences Bldg. Auditorium LA175, 4800 E. Huron River Dr. Free. 741-1953.

★Christmas Festival: Great Lakes Branch of the Anthroposophical Society of America. The program begins with a performance of the late Ernst and Katherine Katz's Nativity drama The Ann Arbor Christmas Play. Followed by lighting of the Christmas tree, singing, and socializing. Bring a Christmas sweet to share. 7 p.m., Rudolf Steiner House, 1923 Geddes Ave. (Parking permitted on the west side of Oswego and the east side of Ridgeway.) Free. 485-3764.

"Christmas Play": Father Gabriel Richard High School. See 15 Thursday. 2 & 7:30 p.m.

"A Christmas Carol": Young Actors Guild. See 16 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

3rd Saturday Contra Dance: Pittsfield Union Grange. With callers Robin Warner and Peter Baker and live music TBA. No partner needed; beginners welcome. Bring flat, smooth-sole shoes. Preceded by a lesson at 7:30 p.m. 8-11 p.m., Pittsfield Grange, 3337 Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. (just south of Oak Valley Dr.). \$10 (members, \$7; students with ID, \$5). 426-0241.

"Krampus Costume Ball": Shadow Art Fair. A costume dance party in the name of Krampus, a mythical anti-Santa who punishes bad children. DJs, a "prom pic" booth, cash prizes for the best costumes, and more. Also, a midnight performance by the Detroit Party Marching Band and a display of Krampus masks. 8 p.m.-after midnight, Corner Brewery, 720 Norris, Ypsilanti. 2¢ donation. [shadowartfair.com](http://shadowartfair.com).

"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater. See 16 Friday. 2 & 8 p.m.

"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Escanaba in da Moonlight": Purple Rose Theatre Company. See 1 Thursday. 3 & 8 p.m.

"Christmas Belles": PTD Productions. See 8 Thursday. 8 p.m.

"Fugue": New Theatre Project. See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

David Dyer: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase. See 15 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 18 SUNDAY

★Hanukkah Party: Ann Arbor Jewish Cultural Society. Family-oriented program featuring a Hanukkah play and secular observance, singing & dancing, craft activities, and games. All invited. 10 a.m.-noon, Jewish Community Center, 2935 Birch Hollow Dr. (off Stone School Rd. south of Packard). Free. 975-9872.

"Frosty on Ice": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation. All invited to skate with Frosty the Snowman to recorded holiday music. Free candy canes. 1-2:30 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 794-6235.

★"Stinchfield Woods Hike or Ski": Huron Valley Sierra Club. Local outdoorsman Barry Lonik leads a 5-mile ski or hike (depending on trail conditions) through the woods. 1 p.m., meet at Zingerman's Roadhouse (2501 Jackson Rd.) to carpool. Free. 477-5715.

★"Strumming in Circles": Ann Arbor District Library. All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited



to bring a guitar, banjo, ukulele, or any other tunable acoustic strumming instrument for a group performance of some simple chord progressions led by an AADL staff member. For novice performers looking for a chance to play along with others. 1-2 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Yule Ritual: Druids of Shining Lakes Grove.** All invited to celebrate the rebirth of the parents of the cosmos in Irish mythology, primal mother Danu and sun god Bel. The ritual includes singing, making an offering, and honoring ancestors and nature spirits. Also, potluck (bring a dish to pass) and raffle. Preceded by a fire watch beginning Dec. 17 (7 p.m., 263 Larkspur). 2-5 p.m., ICC Education Center, 1522 Hill St. Free. 277-1897.

★**"Mark di Suvero: Tabletops": UMMA.** Docent-led tour of the current exhibit of this well-known artist's sculptures made from industrial steel and salvaged materials. 2 p.m., UMMA, 525 S. State. Free. 763-UMMA.

★**"The Nutcracker": Ann Arbor Ballet Theater.** See 16 Friday. 2 p.m.

★**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 2 p.m.

★**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 3 p.m.

★**Ann Arbor Classics Book Group: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of a book TBA. Refreshments. 3 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**Annual Christmas Concert: St. Thomas Catholic Church.** The St. Thomas choir performs a Christmas program. Also, a performance by the children's choir. 3 p.m., St. Thomas, Kingsley at N. State. Free. 761-8606.

★**"Directional Sense: How to Find Your Way Around...Everywhere": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local architectural sociologist Jan Carpmann, a nationally known wayfinding consultant who works to make medical centers, museums, universities, and other public facilities easier to navigate, discusses her new book. 3:30-5 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-4555.

★**"In the Spirit": Bethlehem United Church of Christ.** Bethlehem United Church of Christ music director Geoffrey Stanton, an EMU music professor, presents a family-friendly concert of seasonal organ, piano, and synthesizer music featuring both original works and fresh takes on standards. 4 p.m., Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 423 S. Fourth Ave. Free. 996-5508.

★**Dexter Community Orchestra.** Anthony Elliott conducts this volunteer ensemble and the Washtenaw Community Orchestra Chorus in Vivaldi's *Gloria* and a selection of John Rutter carols. 4 p.m., Dexter Center for the Performing Arts, Dexter High School, 2200 N. Parker (south off Shield from Baker Rd.), Dexter. Free. 355-0725.

★**"The Glorious Sound of Brass": St. James Episcopal Church.** The Ann Arbor-based Liberty Brass Quintet performs Scheidt's *Canzone per Sonare*, Mozart's *Eine kleine Nachtmusik*, seasonal carols such as the traditional "Coventry Carol" and "Gloucester Wassail," and others. 4 p.m., St. James Episcopal Church, 3279 Broad St., Dexter. Canned or boxed food item donation. 426-8247.

★**"Traditional King's College Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church adult choir, 2 children's choirs, and handbell choir in this traditional English service, in which 9 scripture readings alternate with seasonal anthems and carols, some sung by the congregation. The music begins with a solo treble performance of "Once in Royal David's City." 4 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

★**Marlena Studer: Kerrytown Concert House.** This local jazz vocalist, known for her passionate interpretations of jazz classics, celebrates the release of her new CD. With vocalist Mark Randisi, saxophonist George Benson, pianist Cliff Monear, and drummer Scott Kretzer. 6 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$10-25 (students, \$5). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

★**"A Christmas Carol": Young Actors Guild.** See 16 Friday. 7:30 p.m.

★**"Fugue": New Theatre Project.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

## 19 MONDAY

★**"Kids Falling Through the Cracks: How Technology Can Hinder or Advance Skill": Ann Arbor District Library.** Talk by Building Bridges Therapy Center occupational therapist Stephanie Ramser and speech pathologist Janice Pagano. 7-8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**Nonfiction Book Club: Barnes & Noble.** All invited to join a discussion of *Dewey*, Vicky Myron's book about the beloved library cat of Spencer (IA). Refreshments. 7 p.m., Barnes & Noble, 3235 Washtenaw. Free. 973-1618.

★**New Millennium Poetry at Sweetwaters.** Readings by local poets Gahl Liberzon, a multiple U-M Hopwood Award winner, and Allison Kennedy, winner of the 2010 Ann Arbor Youth Poetry Slam. The program begins with open mike readings. 7-8:30 p.m., Sweetwaters Coffee & Tea, 123 W. Washington. Free. 994-6663.

## 20 TUESDAY

★**"Chanukah Wonderland": Chabad of Ann Arbor.** Dec. 20-23 & 27. All kids and adults invited for Chanukah activities, including arts & crafts, olive press demos, and chances to dress up as Judah Maccabee, build a Lego menorah, and, on Dec. 27 only, help build a 10-foot jelly bean menorah. Also, potato latkes, doughnuts, and Chanukah music. The jelly bean menorah lighting is on Dec. 27 at 5:30 p.m. 1-7 p.m. (Dec. 20-22 & 27) & 11 a.m.-3 p.m. (Dec. 23), Briarwood Sears wing. \$3 admission. 994-9832, ext. 5.

★**"Climbing Everest with Pem Dorjee Sherpa": The Himalayan Bazaar.** Himalayan Bazaar co-owner Sherpa discusses growing up in Nepal, his work as a porter, and his 2 climbs to the summit of Mt. Everest. 7 p.m., Himalayan Bazaar, 218 S. Main. Free. 997-7229.

★**Matthew Ball: Ann Arbor District Library.** This acclaimed local boogie-woogie pianist performs boogie-woogie and blues arrangements of classical American songs from "Swanee River" to "Over the Rainbow," along with boogie-woogie classics like "Bumble Boogie," "Pinetop's Boogie," "Cow Cow Blues," and more. 7-8 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**"Great Adventures Around the Globe": Huron Valley Sierra Club.** Club members and others show slides of their most adventurous trips. Refreshments. Send 10-15 digital photos to esteimma@umich.edu to participate, or bring 10-15 mounted slides. 7:30 p.m., U-M Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 N. Dixboro Rd. Free. 647-7600.

★**The Moth Storyslam: Michigan Radio.** Monthly open mike storytelling competition sponsored by The Moth, the NYC-based nonprofit storytelling organization that also produces a weekly public radio show. Each month 10 storytellers are selected at random from among those who sign up to tell a 3-5 minute story on the monthly theme. December theme TBA at arborweb.com. The 3 judges are recruited from the audience. Monthly winners compete in a Grand Slam in the spring. 7:30-9 p.m. (sign-up begins at 6 p.m.), The Circus, 210 S. First. \$5. 764-5118.

## 21 WEDNESDAY

★**Book Club: Ann Arbor Senior Center.** All seniors age 55 & over invited to join Liz Gleich to discuss a book TBA at a2gov.org/senior. 12:15-1:30 p.m., Ann Arbor Senior Center, 1320 Baldwin. Free. 794-6250.

★**Channeled Spiritual Discussion Group: Deep Spring Center.** All invited to share their spiritual and metaphysical questions with others with similar interests. The evening is led by Aaron, a "being of light" channeled by Barbara Brodsky, who begins the evening with a talk based on his and Brodsky's book *Cosmic Healing*. Also, socializing. 7-9:30 p.m., Deep Spring Center, 3003 Washtenaw, Suite 2 (next to Arby's; entry on Glenwood). Free, but donations are accepted. 477-5848.

★**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 7 p.m.

★**Culinary History Reading Group: Motte & Bailey, Booksellers.** All invited to join a discussion of *Belly of Paris*, Emile Zola's novel set in Les Halles, an enormous 19th-century market that, in Zola's exhaustive description, is both seductive and disgusting. 7:30-9 p.m., Motte & Bailey, 212 N. Fourth Ave. Free. 669-0451.

★**"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 7 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

## 22 THURSDAY

★**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 3 & 7 p.m.

★**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Keith Ruff: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Dec. 22 & 23. This up-and-coming Detroit-area African American comic is known for his crisp, clever, slightly twisted topical commentary and for his high-spirited, often whimsical performing style. Preceded

by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri.) reserved seating in advance, \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 23 FRIDAY

★**"It's a Wonderful Life": Encore Musical Theatre Company.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**Keith Ruff: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 22 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 24 SATURDAY

★**"Marathon Skate": Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation.** Dec. 24 & 31. Skating to music by a DJ. 11 a.m.-4:45 p.m., Veterans Ice Arena, 2150 Jackson Rd. \$6 (youths age 17 & under and seniors age 60 & over, \$5). \$1 discount for city residents. Skate rentals available (\$3). 794-6235.

★**Living Nativity: First Congregational Church.** Costumed reenactors, accompanied by a live camel, sheep, and donkey, re-create the traditional Nativity scene. 4-8 p.m., First Congregational Church, 608 E. William at State. Free. 662-1679.

★**Lessons and Carols: First Presbyterian Church.** The traditional program of scripture readings interspersed with sacred carols, anthems, and hymns, including Daniel Pinkham's *Christmas Cantata*. Performed by the church's chancel choir and a brass quartet. 5 & 7:30 p.m., First Presbyterian Church, 1432 Washtenaw. Free. 662-4466.

★**Christmas Cantata: New Hope Baptist Church.** All of the church's choirs perform a Christmas music program. 6 p.m., New Hope Baptist Church, 218 Chapin. Free will offering. 994-4620.

★**Lessons and Carols: Northside Community Church.** A program of scripture readings, sacred music, carol singing, and opportunities for children to place the figures in the Nativity scene, concluding with a candle lighting procession and singing of "Silent Night." Accompanist is U-M piano professor Martin Katz. 7-8 p.m., Northside Community Church, 929 Barton Dr. Free. 662-6351.

★**Festival of Lessons and Carols: First Baptist Church.** The church presents the Christmas story through a program of alternating scriptural readings and choral and congregational singing adapted from the famous Christmas Eve service at King's College, Cambridge (England). Children welcome; child care provided for infants and toddlers. 7:30 p.m., First Baptist Church, 512 E. Huron. Free. 663-9376.

★**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**"Festival Prelude": St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.** St. Andrew's music director Deborah Friauff directs the church choir, bell choir, soloists, and other musicians in a program of Christmas carols, anthems, and other music in candlelight. 10:30 p.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 306 N. Division. Free. 663-0518.

## 25 SUNDAY (CHRISTMAS)

See Michigan Theater listings in FILMS.

## 26 MONDAY

See 5 Monday weekly event listings.

## 27 TUESDAY

★**"Playoga": Ann Arbor District Library.** Local yoga teacher Victoria Duranona introduces some yoga postures to kids in grades K-3 (accompanied by an adult). 2-2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Crochet": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and teens in grade 6 & up invited to crochet a Möbius strip scarf. For intermediate and advanced crocheters. Supplies provided. 6:30-8:45 p.m., AADL Mallets Creek Branch, 3090 E. Eisenhower (between Stone School & Packard). Free. 327-8301.

## 28 WEDNESDAY

★**"Silly Stories": Ann Arbor District Library.** With nationally renowned local storyteller Laura Pershin Raynor. For kids in grades K-3 (accompanied by an adult). 2-2:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Make Jewelry from Paper Beads": Ann Arbor District Library.** Craft activity for kids in grades 6-12. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL Traverwood Branch, 3333 Traverwood at Huron Pkwy. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Mini Monster Stuffies": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and youth in grade 4 & up invited to learn sewing basics while designing and making an ugly little stuffed toy. 6:30-8:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Comedy Jamm": Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 7 Wednesday. 8 p.m.

## 29 THURSDAY

★**"Cereal Box Scrapbooks": Ann Arbor District Library.** All kids in grades 4-8 invited to bring photos and other memorabilia to make a few scrapbook pages. Supplies provided, including cereal boxes for covers. 2-3:30 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Environmental Songs for Kids": Ann Arbor District Library.** Popular local singer-songwriter Joe Reilly presents an interactive program for kids in grades K-3. 2-2:45 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Origami Basics": Ann Arbor District Library.** All adults and youth in grade 4 & up invited to learn the Japanese art of paper folding and make animal and geometric shapes. Supplies provided. 7-8:30 p.m., AADL multipurpose room (lower level), 343 S. Fifth Ave. Free. 327-8301.

★**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 7:30 p.m.

★**Norm Stulz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Dec. 29 & 30. Veteran Detroit stand-up comic who specializes in funny tales about raising 3 kids and other aspects of family life. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$7 (Thurs.) & \$10 (Fri.) reserved seating in advance, \$9 (Thurs.) & \$12 (Fri.) general admission at the door. 996-9080.

## 30 FRIDAY

★**"Happy New Year's Craft": Ann Arbor District Library.** All preschoolers through 5th graders invited to make hats and noisemakers for New Year's Eve. 2-3 p.m., AADL Pittsfield Branch, 2359 Oak Valley Dr. between Scio Church Rd. and Ann Arbor-Saline Rd. Free. 327-8301.

★**Randy Napoleon Sextet: Kerrytown Concert House.** Jazz standards and originals by this sextet led by Ann Arbor native Napoleon, a NYC-based guitarist who also tours with the legendary guitarist-vocalist Freddy Cole. Tonight the group celebrates the release of its new CD. With trombonist Josh Brown, trumpeter Justin Walter, tenor saxophonist Ben Jansson, and Hammond B3 organist Duncan McMillan. 7 & 9 p.m., KCH, 415 N. Fourth Ave. Tickets \$15-30 (students, \$10). Reservations recommended. 769-2999.

★**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 8 p.m.

★**Norm Stulz: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** See 29 Thursday. 8 & 10:30 p.m.

## 31 SATURDAY (NEW YEAR'S EVE)

★**Jamie Lissow: Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase.** Young comic from upstate New York known for his laid-back style and quick-witted observational humor about various aspects of popular culture. Preceded by 2 opening acts. Alcohol is served. 8 & 10:30 p.m., 314 E. Liberty (below Seva restaurant). \$25 (8 p.m.) & \$30 (10:30 p.m.) reserved seating in advance and general admission at the door. 996-9080.

★**Midnight Elegance New Year's Eve Dance Party: Parents Without Partners.** All singles invited for an evening of dancing and socializing. Recorded 70s to contemporary dance music played by a DJ. Cash bar. Dressy attire; the price of admission includes a continental breakfast. 8:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., Grotto Club, 2070 W. Stadium. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. 578-3664.

★**New Year's Eve Dance Party: Ann Arbor Community of Traditional Music and Dance.** Contra, English country, and couples dancing to live music by the Indiana band Coffee Zombies. Dancing is preceded by appetizers (6:30 p.m.) and a potluck dinner (7 p.m.). Bring a main dish or dessert to share. BYOB. 8:30 p.m., Concourse Hall, 4531 Concourse Dr. (off S. State across from the airport). Tickets \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door. 260-9027.

★**"Ain't Misbehavin'": Performance Network Professional Season.** See 1 Thursday. 9 p.m.



# Classifieds & Personals

## Personals Key

A=Asian	J=Jewish
B=Black	L=Letters
C=Christian	LTR=Long Term Relationship
D=Divorced	M=Male
F=Female	ND=Nondrinker
G=Gay	NS=Nonsmoker
H=Hispanic	P=Phone Calls
H/WP=Height & Weight Proportionate	P=Professional
ISO=In Search Of	S=Single
	W=White

## Women Seeking Men

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE**  
\$3 per letter  
See Instruction Box.

Bright, slim, caring **SWPF** ISO true gentleman for friendship, maybe more. RSVP soon. 5786

Cute, fit, girl teddy bear ISO LTR with boy teddy bear 45+. For dancing to the Blues, cassoulet by the fire, more. 5794  
Female, 50, looking for someone to hang out with. I'm a smoker and occasional drinker. 5809

## Men Seeking Women

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**PERSONAL LETTER RESPONSE**  
\$3 per letter  
See Instruction Box.

Deaf male, **SW**, wife died. Looking for good woman, 39-49, who likes movies, walks, Thanksgiving, and family good times. 5803

Ready for love, **SWM**, 41, in search of special lady. 5808

**SWM**, 5'11", is an expert on film, music of the 50s & 60s, and American history. ISO intelligent **SWF**, who loves the arts and sports. I also enjoy tennis and long walks. 5805

Looking for friends. Middle-aged male, well-educated, well-traveled, well-read, intelligent, good conversationalist. Looking to expand my friendship network with like-minded people. 5806

## General Personals

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

## It's Easy to Respond to a Personals Ad!

### To Respond to a Personals Ad by Mail:

Letter responses are forwarded for \$3 per letter. Put each letter in its own envelope with the box number and sufficient first-class postage on the front. Do not put your return address on the individual envelopes, but be sure to include your contact information inside the letter if you wish to receive a reply. Mail all response letters (in a larger envelope) to the Ann Arbor Observer; include a check for \$3 per response made payable to: Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.

## Place Your Personals Ad Today!

• Personals ads are \$7.00 per line.

• Place a personals ad through [www.arborlist.com](http://www.arborlist.com) and receive the first four lines for FREE.

• Email: [classifieds@arborweb.com](mailto:classifieds@arborweb.com) or Fax: (734) 769-3375

• Mail or walk-in: 201 Catherine St., Ann Arbor, MI 48104

## Observer Personals Ads are also posted online at:

[arborlist.com](http://arborlist.com)—totally free classifieds, and [arborweb.com](http://arborweb.com)—Ann Arbor online

Please call with any questions or comments: (734) 769-3175

We reserve the right to reject, cancel, or modify any advertising and to determine the classification of individual ads.

## Entertainment

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**Live harp music for your special occasion!** Flute/harp duo also available. Contact Laurel through Rusch Entertainment, (800) 439-5319, [ruschfun@aol.com](mailto:ruschfun@aol.com), [www.ruschentertainment.com](http://www.ruschentertainment.com).

**\* CLASSICAL HARP MUSIC \***  
Live harp music for any occasion.  
Deborah Gabrion, (734) 417-6969

## Lessons & Workshops

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**ANN ARBOR AREA PIANO TEACHERS GUILD**  
for referrals to qualified professional piano teachers. All levels and ages, 665-5346. [aaaptg.googlepages.com](http://aaaptg.googlepages.com).

**Piano Lessons.** Double degreed in music education. Played 58 years, taught for 30. I am patient and positive. Call for a free lesson and chat. Near Ellsworth. (734) 646-2740.

**PIANO LESSONS**—Your home, all levels. Experienced, perceptive teacher. DMA U-M. Info: (734) 482-4663.

**Glass Shack Studio (734) 904-4663**  
Mosaic Classes/Workshops  
Open for Midnight Madness!  
(Discounted Gift Certificates)  
[www.GlassShackStudio.com](http://www.GlassShackStudio.com)

**PIANO LESSONS AGE 5 & UP**  
Prof. piano teacher, U-M Music School grad. Member of Piano Teachers Guild. Visit my website: [www.McPianoLady.com](http://www.McPianoLady.com). Mary Ann McCulloch, (734) 604-0942. Email: [mcpianolady@aol.com](mailto:mcpianolady@aol.com).

**Tutor is Available for GED.**  
(586) 202-0004.

**Voice & Piano Lessons:** 15+ years working with ages 5-adult. Classical, jazz, musical theater, folk, pop. Vocal method uses breath, voice, posture, & visualization. Stephannie Moore (734) 417-0670, [stephannie@dynamicexpressionstudio.com](mailto:stephannie@dynamicexpressionstudio.com).

## Miscellaneous

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**Climate Control Indoor Storage**  
490 S. Maple, Ann Arbor. Next to Kroger.  
662-5262. [www.ccindoorstorage.com](http://www.ccindoorstorage.com)

**Give the book about Detroit's own Baseball Hall of Famer!**  
[www.rickferrellknuckleballcatcher.com](http://www.rickferrellknuckleballcatcher.com)

## ISPY CONTEST

Can you identify the glimpse of Ann Arbor in the photo on p. 91? If you can, you could win a \$25 gift certificate to spend at an Ann Arbor Observer advertiser of your choice. One winner will be drawn from all correct entries received by noon, December 9. No phone entries, please. Send your answer to: I Spy, Ann Arbor Observer, 201 Catherine, AA 48104. Fax: 769-3375; email: [backpage@aaobserver.com](mailto:backpage@aaobserver.com) (include address and phone number and put I Spy in the subject line).

## Services

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**WEBSITE DESIGN**  
Create, maintain or update your site!  
Noreen's Simple Sites (734) 646-3400.  
[noreenssimplesites.com](http://noreenssimplesites.com)

## Health

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**Ann Arbor Hypnotherapy**  
[www.annarborhypnotherapy.com](http://www.annarborhypnotherapy.com)  
(760) 710-1804

Smoking, weight, anxiety, stress, phobias, insomnia, depression, money, relationships, procrastination, regressions, and more.

**Relax and Renew Massage**  
Swedish, Prenatal, Reiki, Chair or Table. Nationally certified. Clinic on Westside. Call Carol Ann at (734) 368-2138.

**SANDYA** - Spiritual Channel, Healer & Counselor since 1990; (734) 206-1945.

**Mari Pruks Psychotherapy**, specializing in Trauma and Addiction. Are you stuck in a spiral of: relationship difficulties, low self-esteem, co-dependency, or emotional instability? Are you struggling with issues such as overeating, alcohol or drug use, PTSDs, depression, and anxiety? To discuss how psychotherapy can help you please email me at [maripruks@yahoo.com](mailto:maripruks@yahoo.com), visit by website [mariprukspsychotherapy.com](http://mariprukspsychotherapy.com) or contact me by phone at 734-352-0638.

## Home

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**Professional & Affordable Housekeeper.**  
Call A Helpful Hand, (734) 975-4229.  
Bonded and insured.

**\* Need Experienced Painters? \***  
Painting in Ann Arbor for over 15 years. Insured to \$1,000,000. Local references. Call Brian (734) 657-8667.  
Email [BLT@umich.edu](mailto:BLT@umich.edu).

## Professional Premium Handyman Plus

Is something broken or not working right? Does it bother you? Caring, patient, personalized service. Promoting intelligent, preventative maintenance and repair. Licensed & insured. Degreed engineer. Since 1995, comprehensive technical expertise with over 100,000 repairs/improvements made. **Prompt response.** Emergency calls welcome. Robert@HelpMcCLE.com. Call Rob, (734) 368-0114.  
[www.HelpMcCLE.com](http://www.HelpMcCLE.com)

**Housecleaning** with the professional touch. Great references. (734) 717-2170.

**Experienced Cleaning at its Best.**  
Ref. available. (734) 752-3325.

**Cleaning accounts wanted** in Ann Arbor and Saline. Weekly and bi-weekly. Karla (734) 231-2050.

**Handyman available** for all your repair, remodeling, building needs. Professional, Reasonable, Reliable. Call Wayne at (734) 646-6278.

## Outdoors

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

### Gardening Services

Fall cleaning, mulching, pruning shrubs, and leaf cleaning.  
Call Craig (734) 434-4661.

**SNOW REMOVAL.** Be safe this winter! Snow blowers. **Reliable.** Seasonal or vacation. Nontoxic ice melters. Licensed and insured. **Clear & clean snow & ice management.** (734) 428-1247.

**Snow Removal Service—Ann Arbor**  
No job too small. Call for an estimate. Dependable Affordable Efficient  
Hannah-Maria Jacques  
Ann Arbor (734) 995-0230.

### Outdoor Services

Outdoor cleaning, snow shoveling, and leaf clean up.  
Call Craig (734) 434-4661.

## Pets

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

### A2DoggyWalker.com

Safe and private dog park trips.  
Unleash your inner dog!  
(734) 678-4771

## Photography

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

### www.beringphotography.com

glenn bering 734.485.5445

### \* WEDDINGS \* PORTRAITS \*

More than 10 years of photography experience.  
[www.cibelenewman.com](http://www.cibelenewman.com)  
(734) 417-8946

## Real Estate

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

## Homes for Sale

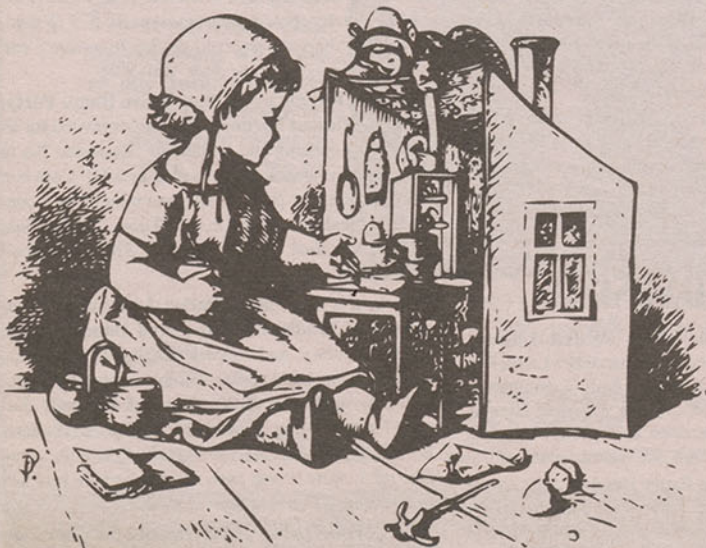
The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**NORTHBURY CONDO:** 4-bedroom, 2-bath end unit. Hardwood floors, new appliances, furnace, a/c, freshly painted. 1 Haverhill Ct. \$249,900. Call Marjorie Uren (734) 635-1881. Century 21 Brookshire.

## For Rent

The Classifieds deadline for the January issue is December 9.

**Dental Office for Rent** - 5 min. from Ann Arbor, 3 operatories + xray & sterilizing room. \$1200/mo. + taxes & utils. Bill Hancock (734) 429-9459.





# Real Estate

Residential and Commercial Properties  
in Washtenaw and Livingston Counties



**205 HIGH ORCHARD, ANN ARBOR**—Location, Location, Location...is all that needs to be said about this classic contemporary home located in the desirable Northeast side of Ann Arbor. This home, close to major highways allows you to enjoy all the sporting events, arts and culture, parks and the wonderful dining Ann Arbor has to offer, and still make your commute to Metro Detroit a breeze. The over 8,000 sq. ft. of living space spread over three stories, 5 generously sized bedrooms, 3.5 baths, are situated on one acre of mature landscape, large decks and patios. This Northeast side home has everything you would want and expect in a home. \$1,125,000. MLS#3107590.



**Marla Heatley**

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**NW ANN ARBOR** – This gorgeous, custom-built home by Henry Landau rests on a 8+ acre country estate. Grounds include extensive landscaping, circle drive, and outbuilding. Home is rock solid with an all-brick exterior. Interior features include two-story living room, striking dining room with barrel ceiling, custom kitchen, dream master suite and finished walk-out basement. \$999,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NE ANN ARBOR** – Incredible 32-acre estate property just minutes to Ann Arbor, U-M, and hospitals. This property is breathtaking. This custom-built home rests in the heart of mature forest. Enjoy complete privacy and harmony with nature with the convenience of a premier location. The 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home features soaring ceilings, walls of glass, and extensive upgrades. \$995,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**MATTHAEI FARM** – This stunning 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home rests on a 2.6 acre natural oasis in an Ann Arbor loved neighborhood. Incredible grounds feature ample plantings, mature trees, and complete privacy. Featuring living room with vaulted ceiling, cherry kitchen, open family room, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$769,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**WALNUT RIDGE** – Incredible contemporary gem in one of Ann Arbor's most sought-after neighborhoods. This home features incredible flair and features. Highlighted by the one-of-a-kind kitchen with stainless steel cabinets, professional grade appliances, and concrete counter tops. Features include all maple floors on the first floor, two-story great room, and luxury master suite with dream bath and closet. \$735,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**ANN ARBOR HILLS** – This 4-bedroom, 3½-bath home has been beautifully expanded and updated. Great setting on a quiet tree-lined street. Remodeled kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, and the first-floor master bedroom addition. Interior features family room with fireplace, formal living room and dining room, and finished basement. \$529,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**COUNTRY ESTATE** – This dramatic 3-bedroom, 3-bath custom-built ranch rests on 3-plus wooded acres just 10 minutes from Ann Arbor. Features include attractive stone accented exterior, screened porch, large deck, custom cherry kitchen, open family room with fireplace, raised ceiling throughout, finished walkout basement with multi-use recreation space, and Geo-thermal heat and a/c (very low energy cost). \$529,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**STONEBRIDGE** – Gorgeous 4-bedroom, 4.4-bath custom-built home by Harris on the 9th fairway at Stonebridge. This home is the essence of quality. Incredible landscaping and multi-tier brick paver patio. Features a two-story family room with masonry fireplace, cherry kitchen with granite and stainless steel appliances, den with built-ins, luxury master suite with spa-like bath, and finished lower level with rec room. \$529,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**PLEASANT LAKE FRONTAGE HOME** – Enjoy panoramic views of one of the area's most desired all sports lakes from this renovated 3-bedroom, 2-bath home. The property is breathtaking with over 100' lake frontage, mature trees, large grassy area, and lake front pavilion. Home is designed to take in the lake and features four seasons porch, large great room, and one of the nicest master suites you will find. \$499,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS** – Stately 4-bedroom, 2½-bath custom-built home on a spacious acre plus lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Great lot with view to open land, large deck, and extensive landscaping. The interior is sharp and features living room with vaulted ceiling, extensive hardwood floors, maple kitchen, sunroom, luxury master suite, and flex-use bonus room. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SAGINAW HILLS** – Striking 4-bedroom, 2½-bath water front home in one of Ann Arbor's most desired subs. Enjoy peaceful pond views from the oversized deck on this beautiful one-acre lot. Home has a nice contemporary flair and features an open kitchen and family room with water views, living room with vaulted ceiling, master suite with walk-in closet and luxury bath, and finished basement. \$449,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SANDPIPER COVE** – Striking 4-bedroom, 2½-bath custom built colonial on a gorgeous acre lot backing to a mature tree line. This home presents like a model home. Incredible grounds with beautiful plantings, two-tier deck, and shady backyard. Interior features maple kitchen with granite counters, open family room with built-ins, oversized master suite with sitting room and exercise area, and great kids' bedrooms. \$429,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**3000 GLAZIER WAY** – Stunning 3-bedroom, 2-bath condo in Ann Arbor's most desired building. Enjoy the gorgeous natural surroundings from this fabulous unit just minutes from hospitals, U-M, and North Campus. Features open great room, porch overlooking the woods, sunroom, spacious master bath, and study. Freshly painted, move-in condition. \$424,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**ANN ARBOR TOWNSHIP** – Rare find!! Sharp 4-bedroom, 3½-bath custom-built home on a peaceful 1.4 acre lot just minutes to downtown Ann Arbor, UM Hospital, and UM North Campus. This home is rock solid and features two-story great room, open kitchen with large island, spacious first-floor master suite, generous upstairs bedrooms include suite and Jack-n-Jill bath. Park-like setting. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**EBERWHITE** – Rare find! Sharp 4-bedroom, 2½-bath colonial in a quiet, tucked-away neighborhood convenient to everything. Great setting with one of the nicest yards you will find. Great trees, screened porch, and large backyard. The interior is move-in condition with hardwood floors throughout, large living and dining rooms, great family room with fireplace, spacious kitchen, and master suite with sitting area. \$349,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE RIDGE** – Very sharp 5-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on a quiet acre lot in one of Saline's most desired subs. Great setting with significant landscaping, large deck, and beautiful patio. This home features a large family room with fireplace, open maple kitchen, formal living room and dining room, oversized master suite, and incredible finished walkout basement. \$309,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - CHELSEA** – Very sharp 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on 5 gorgeous acres just minutes from downtown Chelsea. Incredible setting features wooded views, large pond, huge deck, and small outbuilding. Home is in top-shape and features all hardwood floors, large living room, family room with fireplace, kitchen with granite counters, and great master suite. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - MANCHESTER** – Custom-built 4-bedroom, 3½-bath colonial on 6+ peaceful, wooded acres just outside the village. Incredible setting features total privacy, ample wildlife, nature trails, large backyard, and out building. Home is special and includes large great room fireplace, three-season sunroom, open kitchen, nice master suite, and partially finished walkout basement. \$289,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**MALLARD COVE** – This very sharp 3-bedroom, 2½-bath home features extensive renovation, perfect maintenance, and pride of ownership. Incredible landscaping, large backyard, and paver patio. The interior is highlighted by the new kitchen with granite counters, and high-end stainless steel appliances, family room with fireplace, sunroom, master suite, study, loft, and generous bedroom sizes. \$289,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**ARBOR WOODS** – This stunning 4-bedroom, 2½-bath custom-built colonial rests on one of the most picturesque settings you will find in the Ann Arbor school district. Enjoy views of nature, ponds, and wildlife from the oversized deck. Home features cherry kitchen with 9' ceilings, open family room with fireplace, dream master suite with large bath, nice sized kids' bedrooms, and walkout basement. \$289,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**WEST SIDE CAPE** – Classic 4-bedroom, 1-bath cape on a quiet west side Ann Arbor neighborhood – an easy walk to downtown. This home is highlighted by the newer maple kitchen with Corian counter tops. Other features include hardwood floors, coved ceilings, large living room, and generous bedrooms. Two car garage and great backyard \$239,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**CHELSEA SCHOOLS** – Three-bedroom, 1-bath turn-of-the-century farmhouse on 3.7 peaceful acres including barn and pasture set up for horses. Wonderful grounds with fruit trees, gardens, and great privacy. Home is loaded with character and features hardwood floors, large kitchen, and family room with woodstove. Also available for \$229,000 with 10 acres. \$184,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**WEST SIDE ANN ARBOR** – Very sharp 2-bedroom, 1½-bath condo in the city, tucked away in one of Ann Arbor's most desired neighborhoods. This unit, located in a small condo cluster, is walking distance to shopping, restaurants, and parks. Features include complete interior updates with new maple kitchen, carpet, and paint. Finished basement and attached garage. \$179,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**MANCHESTER** – Sharp 3-bedroom, 1½-bath ranch on a quiet 2-acre setting with an Ann Arbor mailing address, just 10 minutes to town. This great setting includes large yard, extensive landscaping, patio, and small barn. The interior is move-in condition, and features large living room, spacious kitchen, and good-sized bedrooms. \$139,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE** – This 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch has all the features you have been hoping for. Home rests on a quiet cul-de-sac lot with huge backyard, mature trees, and the largest deck you will find. The interior is nicely put together and includes living room, remodeled kitchen, good-sized bedrooms, and finished basement with rec room and office. Attached 2½-car garage. \$139,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.





**SALINE** - This stunning home was custom-built for the 2008 Showcase of Homes Tour. You will be impressed by quality of materials and craftsmanship. This home rests on 7 1/2 peaceful acres that includes a scenic pond, covered bridge, in-ground pool, and 60' x 100' barn. Interior features include two-story great room, chef's kitchen, luxury first-floor master suite, sunroom, den, and incredible finished basement. \$1,350,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NW ANN ARBOR** - This is one of the finest homes you will ever see. Striking Arch design with Idaho Blue Stone and Redwood exterior, exceptional landscaping, and covered outdoor patio with fireplace. Interior features cherry cabinets, floors, trim, and doors throughout. Gourmet kitchen, spa-like master suite, and finished lower-level with rec space, sauna, and full kitchen. Five-car heated garage. \$1,350,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NE ANN ARBOR** - This 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home is one of the finest custom-built homes you will ever see. Incredible craftsmanship. Nestled on a wooded 2.4 acre lot. Extensive landscaping, patio, and putting green. Home has every amenity including a two-story great room, sunroom, dream kitchen, luxury bath, and the ultimate finished basement. \$1,195,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**ANN ARBOR** - Very special 4-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath custom-built, builder's own home backing to Polo Fields golf course. Gorgeous brick and stone exterior, extensive landscaping, and the finest covered patio with outdoor kitchen you will see. Interior is top-of-the-line in every way. Custom kitchen, extensive moldings, high ceilings, and luxury amenities in every room of the home. \$1,050,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS** - Incredible 6-bedroom, 5-bath, 2 1/2-bath home on an acre plus lot in Saline. This home is loaded with custom features and amenities inside and out. Exterior features extensive landscaping, spacious yard, large deck, and 2 patios. Interior includes gorgeous living room, cherry kitchen with granite, cherry paneled den, first-floor master, and incredible finished basement. \$699,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP** - Incredible 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath custom-built home on 6.77 perfectly private acres. This setting is spectacularly nestled in the woods, but convenient to Ann Arbor, US-23, and M-14. Newer home with all the current finishes including maple kitchen with granite, great room with high vaulted ceiling, first-floor master suite, sunroom, and upper loft. \$549,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS** - This stunning 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built home is just perfect in every way. The acre-plus lot provides ample landscaping, large decks, and birch tree forest. Interior is grand and features two-story foyer and living room, custom kitchen with granite, open family room, sunroom, first-floor master suite, den, loft, and finished basement. You will love it! \$599,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**GLENNBOROUGH** - Very sharp 5-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath custom-built home by Russell. This home rests on one of the most gorgeous settings you will find backing to trees and wildlife. The interior is special featuring great room with vaulted ceiling, large custom kitchen with Corian, spacious first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$599,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**CHELSEA SCHOOLS** - Incredible 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home on Crooked Lake. Enjoy incredible panoramic views of this peaceful lake with an abundance of wild-life, boating and swimming available. Home is gorgeous and features all maple floors and trim, great room with views of the lake, open kitchen, luxury master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$499,500. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**NEW LISTING - BARTON HILLS** - Experience an incredible setting in Ann Arbor's most exclusive neighborhood. This 3 1/2-acre wooded parcel features rolling land, great privacy, and ample wildlife. Home is a mid-century contemporary with great architectural significance but in need of major updating. Two-bedroom, 2-bath, home with very large great room, nice master suite, and tons of windows. \$489,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS** - Very sharp 5-bedroom, 4 1/2-bath custom-built home on a spacious acre plus lot in one of the most desired subs in the Saline Schools. Great exterior, with extensive landscaping, large deck, and circle drive. The interior features two-story family room, open kitchen with maple cabinets, den, nice master suite, and finished walkout basement with recreation room, bedroom, and bath. \$479,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SUPERIOR TOWNSHIP** - Incredible estate property just minutes from Ann Arbor and US-23. This custom-built home rests on 3 1/2 peaceful acres and includes one of the nicest barns you will find. 40 x 60 pole barn with cement floor, oversized doors, and finished loft. Home is stunning with high vaulted ceilings, first-floor master, maple kitchen with granite, and finished basement. \$474,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**BROOKVIEW HIGHLANDS** - Very nice 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home on a spacious acre-plus lot in one of Saline's most popular neighborhoods. Great setting with extensive landscaping, patio, and thick privacy foliage. The interior of this home sparkles, and is highlighted by the cherry kitchen with upgraded appliances, open family room, unique mid-level den, nice master suite, and finished basement. \$399,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**LAKE FOREST** - Quality Wexford built, 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home located deep within the neighborhood on a quiet 1/2-acre lot. Great setting features gorgeous landscaping, large deck, and great backyard. The interior is sharp, and includes two-story family room, open kitchen with granite counters, formal living room and dining room, study, first-floor master suite, and nicely sized upstairs bedrooms. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**UPLAND HILLS - CHELSEA** - This stunning, custom-built 4-bedroom, 3 1/2-bath home rests on one of the most beautiful settings you will find anywhere. Quiet cul-de-sac lot backs to 20-acre nature preserve. Enjoy panoramic views of nature, ponds, and trees. Interior is sharp and features great room with 12' ceilings, large kitchen with hearth area, first-floor master suite, and finished walkout basement. \$399,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**CENTENNIAL PARK** - Great 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath colonial overlooking a pond in one of the most desired subs in Saline schools. Walk to the elementary school and high school. The interior of this home is sharp and features two-story family room, open kitchen with cherry cabinets, formal living room and dining room, den, great master suite with vaulted ceiling and dream bath, and nice sized kids' bedrooms. \$389,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**EAST HORIZONS** - Very sharp 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home on a quiet cul-de-sac in one of the most desired subs in Saline's school district. This great setting features very large backyard, great deck, and extensive landscaping. The interior is crisp with ample hardwood floors, great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, fabulous first-floor master suite with brand new bath, and spacious bedrooms. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**WEST SIDE ANN ARBOR** - Storybook brick and stone home on one of the most unique and beautiful lots on the west side. Enjoy your own personal oasis at this 1/2 acre setting featuring towering mature trees, extensive landscaping, and gardens. Home is solid but modest and loaded with character. Hardwood floors, extensive trim, and curved ceilings. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE** - Oversized 4-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath ranch on a private 2.75 acre lot just minutes to downtown Saline and US-23. Wonderful setting features mature trees, extensive landscaping, and in-ground pool. Interior is spacious and features sunken living room with fireplace, oversized family room with room for game table and TV area, open kitchen, nice master suite, and lots of storage. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**LINCOLN SCHOOLS** - Enjoy your own 40-acre private getaway in this modest 3-bedroom, 1-bath home. The land is spectacular and features open meadows and dense woods. Potential for land split also exists. Perfect home for an outdoor enthusiast. Home is older and has lots of charm. \$299,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**WILDWOOD** - Great 3-bedroom, 3-bath ranch in one of Saline's most desired subs. This is one of the sharpest homes you will see with a great floor plan and stunning décor. The lot is fantastic, backing to woods with large deck and extensive landscaping. The interior features great room with vaulted ceiling, open kitchen, nice master suite, and finished basement with multi-use rec room, study, and bath. \$239,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**SALINE** - Classic 4-bedroom, 1 1/2-bath farmhouse on 2.7 acres just 5 minutes west of Saline. This home retains much of its original character with hardwood floors and oversized moldings throughout. Great setting with 5 outbuildings of various size, vista views, and peaceful countryside abounds. \$225,000. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**HAISLEY** - This is one of the sharpest west side capes you will find on the market today. This 3-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath home has been completely redone. Great lot, in a very quiet location, features large fenced yard, great deck, and 2 1/2-car garage. A newer maple kitchen with Corian counters, nice upstairs master with half-bath, and finished basement, highlights the interior. \$219,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**PATTENGILL AREA** - Sharp 3-bedroom, 1-bath ranch on a quiet, tree-lined street walking distance to the elementary school. This home has been very well taken care of and features all hardwood floors, large living room, bright kitchen, spacious bedrooms, and partially finished basement. Lot feature extensive landscaping, deck, and garden area. \$197,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**YPSILANTI** - Striking ranch on a very quiet street just a short walk to Depot Town. Wonderful fenced backyard with large deck and screened porch. The home has many updates and improvements including open kitchen with granite counter tops, large living room, and spacious bedrooms. \$139,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**AUGUSTA TOWNSHIP** - Remarkable 2-bedroom, 1-bath ranch at a remarkable price on 2+ acres of land just minutes from US-23. Incredible property with treed privacy on 3 sides. Home has many updates including newer roof, windows, furnace, septic, and is ready for your interior touches. Oversized great room with fireplace, vaulted ceiling, spacious kitchen, full basement, and updated bath. \$99,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**ANN ARBOR** - Sharp 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo near U-M campus. Enjoy this quiet complex convenient to everything in in-ground swimming pool. This unit is in great shape and features a spacious living room, nice bedroom, and perfect condition throughout. \$63,500. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.



**WALDEN HILLS** - Nice 1-bedroom, 1-bath condo in this popular west side complex. Unit is move-in condition and features large living room, kitchen, and a huge master bedroom with walk-in closet. Great amenities include indoor pool, exercise room, and racquetball court. \$59,900. Call Matt Dejanovich, 476-7100.





**208 ORCHARD HILLS**—Stunning architect designed contemporary on an incredible 1.2 acre site abutting Nichols Arboretum. Unique hardwood floors on main floor. Vaulted ceiling great room, a wonderful retreat minutes from downtown Ann Arbor and UM Campus. First floor master suite with fireplace, small private deck. Second floor loft space functions as a great office. Lower level walkout with 2 bedrooms, 2 baths and family room. Large deck for outside entertaining encircles the home. Two story garage with opportunity for additional storage. \$795,000. MLS# 3107931



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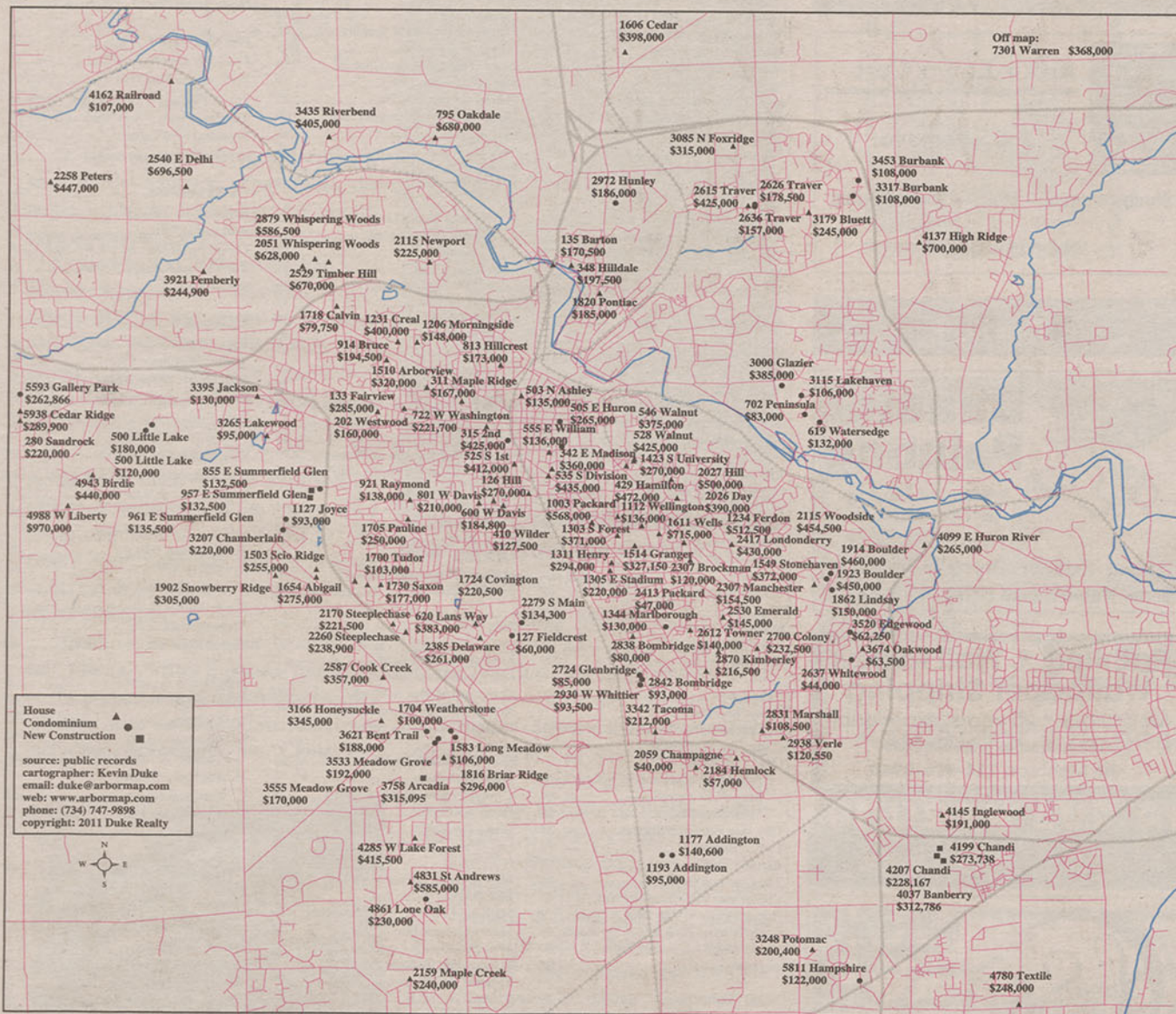
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# OCTOBER 2011 HOME SALES



**The trend is up:** the median single-family home price per square foot is up 4 percent in the city of Ann Arbor compared to last year (January–October). The accompanying graph tracks the median price per square foot of living space for single-family homes sold since 2007, based on public records. Since bottoming out in 2009, the per-foot median (half were higher, half were lower) has improved by a total of 6 percent.

**Prices are up almost no matter how you slice it.** The accompanying table carves up sales inside the city limits by home size. With an average selling price of \$266,000 and a size of 1,685 square feet, the mean (average) price per square foot is up 7 percent since 2009.

**Only homes between 1,750 and 1,999 square feet lost ground,** dipping to \$134 per foot from \$139 two years ago. Bigger

homes sometimes sold for less per square foot, but between 2,000 and 2,499 square feet, homeowners enjoyed a stellar increase compared to 2009—a 24 percent spike. They needed a break: these homes suffered the lowest average price per square foot amid the gloom of 2009, falling to just \$133.

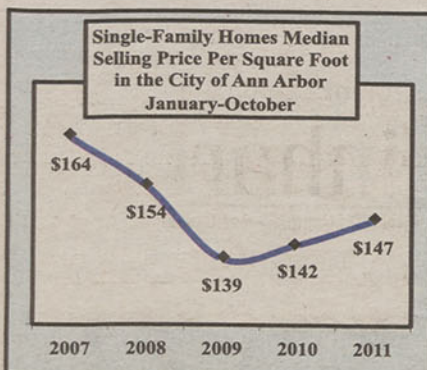
**At the low end this month, Fannie Mae accepted \$58 per square foot** of living space for a duplex at 1700 Tudor. The house is on this month's map near the intersection of Maple and Scio Church. It's just one of a number of rentals most people wouldn't really think of as "single-family" homes, but it's on the map and was included in the analysis.

**The closer to central campus one gets, the safer the assumption that a home is a rental.** Consider the example of 535 South Division on this month's map.

Ostensibly a "single-family" home, it sold for \$304 per square foot. It's located in a neighborhood of rentals and right next to a university parking structure, but even so, the sale appears to be out of line with every benchmark, including the rental market and the assessed value. Lacking a better explanation, it's tempting to speculate that the property was sold for what might be called "parking structure prices."

**So what are the characteristics of the average single-family home that sold in 2011?** It is not a rental, nor is it a foreclosure. An October sale on the north side most closely fits the profile. The brick ranch at 348 Hilldale was built in 1972 and measured 1,276 square feet. It sold for \$155 per square foot—the average for 2011.

—Kevin Duke



January-October	2011	2011	2011	2009	2009 vs 2011
Single-Family	Sales	Average	Average	Average	Price Change
by Square Feet	#	Price	\$ Per Ft	\$ Per Ft	Per Square Foot
600-999	82	\$137,000	\$156	\$152	3%
1,000-1,249	112	\$175,000	\$156	\$148	5%
1,250-1,499	115	\$208,000	\$153	\$139	10%
1,500-1,749	94	\$242,000	\$150	\$142	6%
1,750-1,999	81	\$250,000	\$134	\$139	-4%
2,000-2,499	93	\$369,000	\$165	\$133	24%
2,500-2,999	43	\$436,000	\$161	\$138	17%
3,000+	31	\$709,000	\$193	\$190	2%
All Ann Arbor	651	\$266,000	\$155	\$145	7%

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## i spy

by Sally Bjork

"I believe that's Maynard House," says Jeff Hauptman, "but from the angle it almost looks like [a] bizarre type of roofing shingle." "The House illuminated by the Plaza is the Maynard House Apartments," confirms Susan Daron. It's "at the corner of Maynard and East William," adds James Ferguson, "just across from the Tower Plaza." Built in 1962, Maynard House was the first high-rise apartment building in town. Tower Plaza, completed seven years later, proved controversial as it took advantage of the newly lifted height regulations, a limit that has recently been reinstated. After a face-lift on its south side, it now shines down on its surroundings.

"Campus Barbers (our favorite hair care place)," writes Suzanne Tainter, "is on the ground level [of Maynard House]" —along with several other businesses, including AccuCopy, the Clothesline,



New view from the site of A2's first apartment house

and the recently opened Iorio's Gelateria. "I walk out my door and that's what I see," writes first-time entrant Matt Hickey—owner of the Campus Barber and Beauty Salon—about November's photo. A sight also seen periodically by Judy Avery, who identifies the building as the "home to Campus Barbers, where Matt regularly cuts my hair."

Thirteen entrants correctly identified November's feature. Matt Hickey won our random drawing and will take his \$25 gift certificate to Biwako Sushi.

To enter this month's contest, use the photo and clue above to identify the scene, then follow the instructions at the bottom of the page.



## fake ad

by Jay Forstner

Last month's Fake Ad winner, Lisa Dugdale, is just about as representative of Ann Arbor as Michigan football, Zingerman's, and bragging about how smart your kids are. Her entry correctly identified the Fake Ad for the Cap-Eleon, a replaceable front section for baseball caps. That entry was chosen from among 136 correct responses, and she's taking her gift certificate to the Ravens Club.

Sonia Zawacki thought the Cap-Eleon was a good idea, but, she writes, "My son would never have gone for it, though. He loved having dozens of baseball caps hanging on his closet door handle."

Ypsilanti's Nancie Loppnow had a similar story to tell. "The Fake Ad for November is on page 76 for Cap-Eleon,

which is something I could really use," she wrote. "Not for my teenage boy—he is grown and gone—but for his dad! He had enough caps and hats to start his own store. Looking into that, actually. Thanks for addressing a serious storage concern in our household!"

The ad even prompted Mel Rogers to send in a picture of her mud room, with a herd of her husband's hats hanging from hooks—both a first for our contest and a welcome opportunity for alliteration.

To enter this month's contest, find the Fake Ad in this issue and follow the instructions in the box below. Hint: the ad always includes the name of the Observer's website, arborweb.com—this month in the sentences, "The Cap-eleon was invented by students right here in Ann Arbor. Web site..."

To enter either contest, send email with the subject "Fake Ad" or "I Spy" to backpage@aaobserver.com. Mail: 201 Catherine, Ann Arbor, MI 48104. Fax: 769-3375. You must include your name, address, and telephone number! All correct entries received by noon on December 9 will be eligible for this month's random drawings. Winners will receive \$25 gift certificates to any business advertising in this issue.



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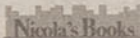
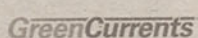


SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11 • 1:30 PM

## SKIPPYJON JONES

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## HOLIDAY CLASSIC FILM SERIES

ADMISSION IS FREE!

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December 4 • 1:30 PM  
**Miracle on 34th St** (1947)

Sponsored by Domino's Farms Office Park

December 18 • 1:30 PM  
**Shop Around the Corner** (1940)

Sponsored by Tios Mexican Cafe

December 11 • 4:00 PM  
**It's a Wonderful Life** (1946)

December 25 • 4:00 PM  
**A Christmas Carol** (1951)

With Pre-feature Cartoon  
*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*  
Sponsored by UM Credit Union

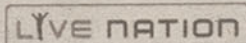
I WANT TO KNOW WHAT LOVE IS  
WAITING FOR A GIRL LIKE YOU  
SAY YOU WILL  
DOUBLE VISION  
FEELS LIKE THE FIRST TIME  
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# Events at a Glance



The Saline Area Players present *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* December 1-4.

- *The Nutcracker* (Youth Dance Theatre of Michigan), Dec. 2-4
- *Swan Lake* (EMU Dance), Dec. 2
- *Barefoot in the Park* (U-M Residential College Players), Dec. 2-4
- *Graduation Ball* (Ypsilanti Area Dancers), Dec. 3 & 4
- *Little Women* (U-M Musical Theatre), Dec. 8-11
- *The Beaux' Stratagem* (U-M Theatre), Dec. 8-11
- *The Way I See It* (U-M Dance Department BFA Concert), Dec. 8-10

Daily Events listings begin on p. 57. Films: p. 67. Galleries: p. 71. Nightspots begin on p. 54.

## Concert Music

*classical, religious, cabaret*

- Measure for Measure men's chorus, Dec. 2
- Today's Brass Quintet, Dec. 3
- Ann Arbor Civic Chorus, Dec. 3
- Sacred Song, Dec. 3
- University Choral Union *Messiah*, Dec. 3 & 4
- Ann Arbor TubaChristmas, Dec. 4
- Chaverim B'Shirim chorus, Dec. 4
- Ypsilanti Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 4
- London Philharmonic, Dec. 6
- Stile Antico early-music vocal ensemble, Dec. 7
- Boychoir of Ann Arbor, Dec. 9 & 10
- Women's Chamber Chorus, Dec. 9
- U-M "Viva Ginastera," Dec. 9-11
- Bolcom & Morris cabaret duo, Dec. 10
- Community *Messiah* Sing, Dec. 11
- Dexter Community Band, Dec. 11
- Ypsilanti Community Choir & Washtenaw Community Concert Band, Dec. 15

## Vernacular Music

*pop, rock, jazz, & traditional*

See Nightspots, p. 54, for shows at the Ark, Blind Pig, & other clubs

- Don White (singer-songwriter), Dec. 2
- Chris Cornell (rock singer-songwriter), Dec. 4
- Katie Geddes & Friends (folk), Dec. 9
- Paul VornHagen Trio (jazz), Dec. 9
- Orpheum Bell (folk-jazz), Dec. 10
- Ellen Rowe Trio (jazz), Dec. 11
- Rodney Whitaker Quartet (jazz), Dec. 16
- Marlena Studer (jazz), Dec. 18
- Randy Napoleon Sextet (jazz), Dec. 30

## Theater, Opera, & Dance

- *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* (Saline Area Players), Dec. 1-4
- *It's a Wonderful Life* (Encore Musical Theatre), Dec. 1-4, 8-11, 15-18, & 20-23
- *Ain't Misbehavin'* (Performance Network), every Thurs.-Sun.
- *Escanaba in da Moonlight* (Purple Rose), Dec. 1-4, 7-11, & 14-17
- *Princess Ida* (U-M Gilbert & Sullivan Society), Dec. 1-4
- *Fugue* (New Theatre Project), Dec. 14, 9-11, & 16-18

- *Christmas Belles* (PTD Productions), Dec. 8-11 & 15-17
- *The Nutcracker* (Dance Alliance), Dec. 11
- *A Christmas Carol* (Young Actors Guild), Dec. 16-18
- *The Nutcracker* (Ann Arbor Ballet Theater), Dec. 16-18

## Comedy, Storytelling, & Performance Art

- Comic Jackie Kashian, Dec. 1-3
- Comic Joe DeVito, Dec. 8-10
- Comic David Dyer, Dec. 15-17
- The Moth Storyslam, Dec. 20
- Comic Keith Ruff, Dec. 22 & 23
- Comic Norm Stulz, Dec. 29 & 30
- Comic Jamie Lissow, Dec. 31

## Festivals, Fairs, & Shows

- Main Street "Midnight Madness," Dec. 2 & "Festive Fridays," Dec. 9 & 16
- Chelsea "Hometown Holiday," Dec. 2-4
- Kerrytown KindleFest, Dec. 2
- Concordia Boar's Head Festival, Dec. 2-4
- Dexter "Home for the Holidays," Dec. 3
- Waterloo Farm Museum "Christmas at the Farm," Dec. 3
- Cobblestone Farm "Country Christmas," Dec. 4

## Lectures, Readings, & Forums

- Fiction writer John Weir, Dec. 1
- Poet Lizzie Hutton, Dec. 6

## Family & Kids' Stuff

- *Go, Dog. Go* (EMU Theatre), Dec. 2-4 & 7-11
- *Little Women* (Wild Swan Theater), Dec. 8-11
- Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra "Sing Along with Santa," Dec. 10
- *Skippyjon Jones* (Theatreworks USA), Dec. 11
- *Jamie and Jordan* (Performance Network Children's Theater), Dec. 17

## "Only in Ann Arbor" Event of the Month

- Robot caroling during Main Street Area Association "Midnight Madness," Dec. 1



# DECEMBER 2011

www.art-design.umich.edu

# M school of art & design

12/1

**Penny Stamps Series:**  
**Paul Kaiser,**  
OpenEndedGroup



**Title:** DRAWING ON CHILDHOOD  
Many of art's deepest impulses trace back to childhood. Paul Kaiser, a partner at OpenEndedGroup, explores how he has tapped into these sources, including how the game of cat's cradle inspired an ever-changing portrait of Merce Cunningham; and how playing with toy soldiers suggested projecting miniature trompe l'oeil figures on New York City sidewalks.

**PRESENTATION: 5:10pm**

**Michigan Theater**  
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor

12/1 ~ 12/21

**Exhibition: George Kushiator,** Cultural and Spiritual Rediscovery



U-M African Presidential Scholar George Kushiator's integrated media works draw on the values of his native Ghana in West Africa to rediscover the existence of the spirit man within the current cultural environment.

**OPENING RECEPTION:**  
**December 1, 3:00pm**

**African Study Center**  
Room 1644, International Institute  
1080 South University

12/2

**Event: Interarts Performance Cabaret**



A showcase of new work from the Interarts Performance students including performance, dance, video, and sound work

**EVENT: 7:00pm**

**Walgreen Drama Center**  
Studio 2, 1223 Murfin, Ann Arbor

12/2 ~ 12/30

**Exhibition: Beyond Comprehensive,** Perspectives on Pain



Curated by A&D alumna Adrienne Finelli, this juried exhibition explores historical, cultural and psychosocial constructs of pain, including works that examine the pains of families, communities, cultures, the environment, and the ways that experiences of pain may also be transformative and constructive.

**OPENING RECEPTION:**  
**December 2, 6:00 - 9:00pm**

**Work • Detroit**  
3663 Woodward Avenue, Detroit

12/8

**Penny Stamps Series:**  
**Dr. Naif Al-Mutawa,** creator of The 99 superheroes



**Title:** OUT OF THIN AIR: THE 99  
Dr. Naif Al-Mutawa is a Kuwaiti clinical psychologist and creator of THE 99, the first Islamic archetype comic superheroes, a series that promotes tolerance, teamwork and appreciation of diversity. In his presentation, Dr. Al-Mutawa shares the progress of THE 99 from idea, to comic book series in 8 languages, to a theme park in Kuwait and a global animation series.

**PRESENTATION: 5:10pm**

**Michigan Theater**  
603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor

12/12

**Performance:**  
**Off the Wall**



Students from the Interarts Program Live Art Survey and It Gets Better performance class rant, rave, protest and proclaim.

**EVENT: 7:00pm**

**Sh/Aut Theatre**  
315 Braun Court, Ann Arbor

11/18 ~ 12/14

**All Student Exhibition**



Covering all of A&D's Ann Arbor Galleries, this creative extravaganza celebrates the work of A&D undergraduate and graduate students.

**Slusser Gallery**  
1st floor, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd.

**Robbins Gallery**  
2nd floor, 2000 Bonisteel Blvd.

**Work • Ann Arbor**  
306 S. State

12/14

**Video Screening:**  
**It Gets Better Project**

Students from the Acts of Intervention class screen videos they've created for the "It Gets Better Project," a website devoted to suicide intervention for LGBTQ youth and allies.

**SCREENING: 6:30pm**

**Work • Ann Arbor**  
306 S. State



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